Hafa Adai!

Despite fewer virus cases, Hawaii hesitant to open schools. PAGE 6

3 stranded mariners are rescued from FSM island. PAGE 7

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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Kanoa Resort at full capacity

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With a capacity of 201 rooms, 125 in the main and 76 on the tower, Kanoa Resort's occupancy has reached its limit, leaving the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force no choice but to open the doors of the former Mariana Resort & Spa starting this Thursday for incoming passengers.

According to Warren Villagomez, head of the task force, they want to make sure that returning residents are in a "comfortable and safe" environment where they won't be mixed with people who have tested positive for the virus.

Additionally, the capacity for the Mariana Resort's

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This file photo from Aug. 3, 2020, shows the Kanoa Resort in Susupe. KRIZEL TUAZON

TROUBLES AT IPI CASINO SITE CONTINUE

Alleged scheme to bring in illegal alien workers bared

» Three indicted for alleged scheme
» Money laundering allegedly involved five transfers of $24.28M from HK to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona unsealed yesterday an indictment against three persons who allegedly conspired to hire unauthorized alien workers to work at the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/resort project in Garapan.

The indictment charged Liwen Wu, also known as Peter Wu; Jianmin Xu; and

See ALLEGED on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 4, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	368	7	375
Recovered	305	13	318
Active	45	7	52
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		23,060	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46	0	46
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		12,301**	

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Is CNMI prepared for November polls?

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Three months before the general elections and the Commonwealth Elections Commission still has not drafted the standard operating procedures on how the polls would be run this November, and could not even provide a timeframe as to when it could get done.

Also, the commission has yet to decide how CNMI voters can vote, given the protocols that need to be in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far, the CEC received a

See POLLS on Page 4

Labor warns of fraudulent PUA claims

About 3,000-plus CNMI residents have received aid through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. KRIZEL TUAZON

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is warning the community about fraudulent claims concerning the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

With the PUA program now on its seventh week, the department has so far released $35 million in unemployment benefits to more than 3,000 claimants, and is targeting to do another disbursement of between $5 million and $10

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BUSINESS
LIVEnglish in Gualo Rai aims to teach its students to not just learn the material but to also live it.
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Surging coronavirus cases has forced another lockdown in Metro Manila in the Philippines.
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LIFE & STYLE
Pipe by pipe, the organ that once thundered through Notre Dame Cathedral is being cleaned.
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ROADSIDE WAVE FOR CHANGE
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020
AK TOYOTA BEACH ROAD INTERSECTION
MEET YOUR 2020 NMI DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES
MEET OUR WOMEN'S COMMITTEE AND THE NMI YOUNG DEMOCRATS
Join us in solidarity for a better CNMI!
BOTA! Saipan, Tinian, Rota!
VOTE DEMOCRAT
FUN MUSIC, FREE SMILES, AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE
BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES
WEAR A MASK * SOCIAL DISTANCING MARKS LOCATED CURBSIDE
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Come learn about our party & upcoming events, volunteer, or make a donation
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ★CNMI★

Local

Labor targets release of up to $10M for 1,500 PUA claimants

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is targeting to disperse up to $10 million this week for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

At a radio media briefing yesterday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente stated that they are working on processing as many PUA applications as possible and are targeting to distribute between $5 million and $10 million worth of payment to about 1,000 to 1,500 approved claimants.

"We're working on a daily basis anywhere between 300 and 500 applications. As far as approving, those take time to vet the applicants' information because we are finding numerous errors. …If these applications have been found to be inaccurate, incorrect, or employer documents are missing, then that number will probably go down," she said.

To help applicants rectify errors or go through their applications smoothly, the department will again be hosting another outreach, this time via a virtual online forum, to limit person-to-person contact.

Labor will be scheduling sessions with different organizations, to assist people with filling out the applications.

On average, only about 40 out of 500 applications are approved and processed for payment each day due to errors, according to Benavente. The department received 7,000 initial applications and processes anywhere between 300 to 500 applications every week.

"Although the numbers are tapering down, we still have a consistent number of people and we expect this to continue over the next few weeks to few months, depending on the turnaround in our economy," she said.

To ask about the status of your PUA application, as well as for other questions, email the Department of Labor at info@puamarianas.com.

Talks brewing on new protocol for incoming passengers

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

As the CNMI prepares for incoming flights when tourist are finally allowed to come to the islands, a challenge that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force could face is how many more tests they can perform.

When the CNMI faced its first two positive cases last March 28, CHCC and the task force were able to get the necessary equipment: test kits, personal protective equipment, machines for testing, and more. Right now, the CNMI has roughly 40,000-plus test kits and, although that may sound a lot, the question is how will the CNMI administer the tests once the boarders are open?

"If flights are going to be coming in, how do we manage that and that's why we're looking at the high risk and low risk areas," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, adding that the recent surge of cases in the United States is almost a reminder of what happened in March with the lack of supplies, test kits, and PPEs, and she does not want the CNMI to be in that situation again.

"That's why…the discussion on the next protocol [aims] to ensure that we are able to manage our inbound travelers…[and to] make sure that there are tools available that are ready to address should the [number of] cases spike up. Those are things that are being discussed with other U.S. API's," said Muna. API's is the acronym for advance passenger information.

CHC staff testing

With Commonwealth Health Center staff at the frontline when it comes to COVID-19, Muña said that determining how often they get tested depends on their risk of exposure.

For instance, if a staff works in a clinic, and since there hasn't been a trace of COVID-19 in the hospital, that staff won't need to be tested. On the other hand, a staff who is treating COVID-19 patients will get tested, she said.

"A staff that is treating a COVID-19 patient will get tested, and that again, there's different types of tests. …We do antibody testing for staff. That is not for diagnosis, it's basically to determine the exposure of the individual," said Muña.

She assured that patients who are isolated at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe are doing well and are regularly getting checked.

IPI, mother company ordered to present corporate rep

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has ordered Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its mother company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., to present a corporate representative at a motion hearing tomorrow, Thursday, in connection with a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission lawsuit.

In an order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona required the corporate representative to appear at the hearing because no substitute counsel has made an appearance for IPI and IPIHL in the EEOC lawsuit. The representative may appear in person or telephonically.

The judge ordered attorney Kelley Butcher to ensure her clients, IPI and IPIHL, are notified of this obligation and provide the dial-in instructions.

Butcher, who is the attorney of record for IPI and IPIHL, earlier filed a motion to withdraw as defendants' counsel. EEOC filed an opposition and a hearing about the motion is currently set for tomorrow at 8:30am.

IPI has not yet named a replacement for Butcher in that case.

The EEOC is suing IPI for allegedly subjecting some female VIP service hosts to unwelcome physical and verbal sexual harassment by IPI casino's male patrons.

IPI has denied the allegations.

Last Thursday, Commonwealth Casino Commission audit manager/acting executive director Charlie O. Atalig disclosed that CCC had received a subpoena from the District Court at the request of EEOC to get voluminous records or documents that IPI had submitted to CCC.

At CCC's monthly board meeting, Atalig said that CCC's legal counsel received the subpoena last June 19. However, he said, their legal counsel was able to narrow the scope to information germane to the case. He said the commission was able to gather and submit all the documents.

Because no substitute counsel has made an appearance in this case, the court orders defendants to present a corporate representative at the Aug. 6 hearing.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economic Development Administration
SEATTLE REGIONAL OFFICE
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, Washington, 98174

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Department of Finance (DOF) to construct the CNMI Economic Resiliency Center (ERC) in Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is located in Capital Hill adjacent to the Department of Finance's Finance & Accounting building and the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. The Department of Finance (DOF) proposes to construct a concrete, three-story, 36,000 sq. ft., typhoon resistant structure that can withstand Category 5 typhoons and sustained winds of up to 200mph. The Economic Resiliency Center will serve as the centralized location for public financial management processes, as well as interagency data connectivity and communication networks. Additionally, the Economic Resiliency Center will serve as a location to support workforce development and training, and as a one stop location to streamline business licensing processes.

Project information is available for review at the CNMI Office of Planning & Development (OPD), Office of the Governor, CDA Building Suite 308, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950, or by calling 670-488-1221.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
RDimmick@eda.gov

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on September 4, 2020 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

DONATED HAND SANITIZERS MCS

Mount Carmel School faculty and administrators pose holding hand sanitizers donated by MCS AlumKnight and CNMI Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. Mount Carmel School is grateful for this donation as they prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Although slots are limited, MCS is accepting applications for open grade-levels. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

Manglona: Mendiola cannot plead the fifth in Atalig trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has determined that Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola has no valid basis for asserting the Fifth Amendment privilege if he is called to testify at the trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Mendiola and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig.

Manglona

The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment protects persons from being forced to incriminate themselves. To plead the fifth means to refuse to answer a question at a criminal trial on the grounds that you might incriminate yourself.

According to the minutes of Monday's in-chamber hearing, Manglona ruled that, based on Mendiola's expected testimony, he does not have a Fifth Amendment right to silence at the trial. No other details were provided in the minutes of the hearing, referred to as an in-camera hearing, which refers to a proceeding carried out in private or in the absence of the public or media for the purposes of sensitivity.

Bruce Berline appeared as the court-appointed counsel for Mendiola, who is being referred to by the court as a material witness.

It was Efraim Atalig, through his lawyer, David Banes, who asked the court to make the determination in Mendiola's case. The U.S. government did not oppose the request.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge and Clerk of Court Heather L. Kennedy summoned Mendiola to appear at the in-camera hearing.

Mendiola used to serve as Rota DFEMS deputy commissioner. He was among the eight Rota officials, including Efraim Atalig, that the Office of the Attorney General had charged with misconduct in public office before the Superior Court. The OAG, however, later dropped the charge against Mendiola and can no longer re-file the case against him.

The Superior Court case was filed over an alleged Republican rally in Guam in June 2018 that Efraim Atalig and others allegedly attended in the guise of a legitimate government trip.

Mendiola was not charged in the Ataligs' case in federal court.

The jury trial of Efraim and Evelyn Atalig, will finally start at the new U.S. Courthouse building in Gualo Rai on Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 10am.

The charges in District Court against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500.

POLLS

From Page 1

total of $1.2 million to run the November election: $600,000 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, and a $600,000 grant from the Help America Vote Act, or HAVA Act.

The commission will acquire new tabulation machines using the HAVA grant, while the CARES Act funding will be used to get personal protective equipment, or PPEs, and supplies to clean and disinfect polling places, as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres certified in a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in April. It will also be used in the mailing, postage, and the tracking of absentee ballots, as well as upgrading current voting equipment.

Appearing before the House of Representatives last Thursday with the Office of the Public Auditor, CEC officials laid down all their concerns for this election, as well as the previous election, and sought the lawmakers' assistance in crafting legislation that could possibly extend the ballot deadline for this year's election.

"We have the election coming up, and we are already short in manpower as it is. So, our attention is shifting toward preparing for the election. We have not drafted the procedure on how to conduct the election. We really base ourselves on the regulation and the law itself," CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said.

OPA's outstanding concerns

At the meeting, OPA's Geraldine Tenorio shared some outstanding concerns that the CEC has yet to address, primarily the lack of accountability for the ballots.

In an audit report last January, OPA thinks that CEC's inability to account for all ballots used throughout the election is "very concerning," adding that "democracy is built on fair elections, but if basic ballot accountability is missing, the integrity of the election is diminished."

While OPA clarified that CEC "greatly improved" in terms of how the 2019 Special Election was handled, they also noted that the special election only covered one precinct, and that for them to consider CEC's actions as sufficient, they need to see it implement a CNMI-wide election.

However, when asked about the 1,600 ballots that went unaccounted for during the 2018 elections, CEC said they do not know what happened to the ballots, and that they cannot comment on it.

Poll workers inefficient?

Basic ballot accountability also boils down to poll workers not knowing where the ballots are.

At the meeting, CEC executive director Julita Villagomez mentioned that during distribution of ballots, poll workers are told about the amount of ballots that are assigned to them, which they should account for, but "there's a lot of times that, even one ballot, they [poll workers] don't know where it's at."

CEC gets a list of 30 poll workers from both parties, as well as 30 supervisors, and the commission trains them both prior to an election.

"Some will just disappear because they don't want to work. …Some of them don't even read, they cannot read and so they drop out. There's a lot of times that we will get additional names at the last minute, and this don't give us enough time to train them," she said. "A lot of times, they will tell us that they already know because they have been working, but still they are making the same mistakes."

To resolve the problem, OPA recommended for a test to be drafted, to help weed out the best individuals who could work as poll workers. In addition, CEC is also planning on conducting some role playing, to make it easier for poll workers to understand and implement the job that needs to be done.

"A lot of times, these poll workers… don't know what they're doing. [They have] to read up the binder and reconcile [the] ballots. Some of them go in there and they're just waiting for someone to help them," Tenorio said.

What to expect on November

For the coming elections, Tenorio said that they recommended the hours for early voting to be extended.

"The laws [are] very straightforward with early voting time—only from 8am to 4pm, and having limited times and only seven days of that early voting, the social distancing—that is something that needs to be done with the Legislature," she said.

Aside from extending the hours for early voting, the CEC has also been getting requests to extend the deadline for the receipt of absentee ballots, and asked lawmakers for assistance.

Igitol said that in the event that there is a COVID-19 surge in the CNMI, the CEC would need legislation to extend the ballot deadline, as well as an extension for the commission to process the absentee ballots.

OPA's Tenorio noted that because the laws are restrictive in terms of when to pick up the absentee ballots, their processes would take longer, and that is something for lawmakers to think about in terms of trying to change the law to accommodate some of the new processes.

CEC and OPA both do not recommend an all-mail-in voting, citing the time it would take to process the ballots, as well as concerns about people sharing post office boxes.

"Everybody here on the islands share a P.O. box, and we don't know who picks up their mail and if that individual will get that ballot. …We're trying to weed out what can we do to prevent voter fraud, or to ensure that the individual receives their ballot," Tenorio said.

Torres, at the media briefing Friday, said that he has met with CEC, and that he is aware of the bills that need to be amended and proposed for the coming election. The governor said that they talked about having an information drive for the CEC so people would know what to expect in November.

"There's a lot of issues that is faced for this election because of COVID-19. ...This election, we want to make it as easy, as accessible to our voters, [while] at the same time making sure that the Privacy Act continues to be applied. There's a lot of work that needs to be done," he said.

ALLEGED

From Page 1

Yan Shi, with one count of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act conspiracy, one count of conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens, 32 counts of harboring illegal aliens, 32 counts of unlawful employment of aliens, and five counts of international promotional money laundering.

U.S. Attorney for Guam and the CNMI Shawn N. Anderson and U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Gang Section chief David L. Jaffe signed the superseding indictment, which was filed last Saturday.

When sought for comments yesterday, IPI issued a statement saying it respects the rule of law and will continue to focus on the completion of the casino/resort project and contribute to the CNMI's economic growth.

IPI said it has assisted the federal agencies with the investigation and will continue to assist in any ongoing investigation.

According to the indictment, Wu was a senior executive for IPI and Worldwide Asia Engineering Limited, or WWA, and manager of Marianas Enterprises Limited, or MEP.

WWA was a company incorporated in Hong Kong. In August 2015, WWA contracted with IPI to recruit and supply workers for the casino construction project.

MEP, a company incorporated in the CNMI, was wholly owned by IPI and performed services for IPI and its contractors, including recruitment, importation, housing, and transportation of foreign workers.

Xu acted as a senior executive for IPI.

Shi was a project supervisor for MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co.

MCC, a company incorporated in the CNMI, was a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Metallurgical Group Corp., a state-owned business incorporated in the People's Republic of China.

There were four unindicted co-conspirators who are all Chinese nationals. One was a senior executive for IPI and WWA, the second was a senior executive for IPI Hong Kong, and the third was a senior executive for MCC China.

The fourth was a senior executive for MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co, who, on Sept. 25, 2017, pleaded guilty to one count of a pattern and practice of unlawful employment of aliens.

The scheme allegedly lasted through at least March 2017 and resulted in an influx of more than 600 illegal workers into the IPI worksite, many of whom were inexperienced or not qualified to perform their assigned tasks.

Availing of the CW-1 program, as well as the jurisdiction's comparably low wage rates, IPI, MCC CNMI, and the other contractors allegedly chose to import nearly all of their employees from China instead of hiring U.S. citizens or otherwise eligible foreign nationals.

However, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services limited the number of CW-1 visas for the project's companies to several hundred.

Beginning as early as September 2015, Wu, Xu, and "unindicted co-conspirator one" allegedly pressured MCC CNMI to accelerate work, threatening to impose fines if the contractors failed to meet deadlines.

As part of the pressure, Wu, Xu, and "unindicted co-conspirator one" implicitly ordered MCC CNMI to hire unauthorized alien workers, referred to informally as *heigong*, which is Mandarin for "black worker."

In addition to hiring workers who were already present in the CNMI, living either illegally or present with non-working visas, Wu, Xu, and "unindicted co-conspirator one" encouraged, authorized, and instructed MCC CNMI to import workers from China using the Conditional Parole Program.

To do this, Wu, Xu, "unindicted co-conspirator one," Shi, and "unindicted co-conspirator three and four," and other foreign contractors instigated a plan to deceive the U.S. Customs and Border Protection by instructing prospective hires in China to lie to immigration inspectors, claiming they wished to enter the CNMI as tourists under the Conditional Parole Program.

Over the next year, in response to heightened scrutiny by CBP inspectors, defendants and the four unindicted co-conspirators promulgated increasingly elaborate schemes of deception, including providing costumes and backstories to hired workers, as well as pairing them with existing female employees in China.

The female employees posed as the illegal foreign workers' spouses or girlfriends in exchange for paid vacations to the CNMI.

In addition to reimbursing MCC CNMI and other contractors for the illegal workers' salaries, Wu, Xu and "unindicted co-conspirator one" also purchased plane tickets and paid other expenses for the illegal workers and their fake spouses or girlfriends.

Once in the CNMI, the aliens worked without authorization, receiving their wages either in cash or via electronic transfer between bank accounts in China. Most remained in the CNMI long after their Conditional Parole status expired.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KANOA

From Page 1

reef hotel—the pink building that is separated from the cottages—is at 98, while the cottages is at 86.

"The cottages can accommodate more people, so it's more like a family setting. It's going to help us out in our accommodation," said Villagomez.

Right now, all arriving passengers in the CNMI are being quarantined at the Kanoa Resort, after the contract with Pacific Islands Club Saipan ended. That has led to the filling up of the Kanoa Resort.

Also, Villagomez stressed that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the task force will be sticking with the quarantine protocol due to many incidents that have happened and been reported to him and CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña. "The thing about this virus is not going away soon. … We›re seeing that a lot of people [in] home quarantine, then next thing you know, we›re seeing pictures of them [outside] that's being shared with us," said Muna.

She says she receives phone calls every day, especially after flights, that people are breaking these protocols that were put in place. "People have to understand that quarantine means you stay home, or we can enforce it by putting you in a government facility."

Muna stated that the quarantine measures have been working but because there's a low number of community transmission, many people don't think they should be guarding themselves. "We should be in a guarded mode all the time. …If you can detect it on arrival, you can detect it after the fifth day testing. So to say that somebody is completely virus-free can be deceiving to other people," said Muna.

LABOR

From Page 1

million for about up to 1,500 claimants this week.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, fraudulent claims are always a concern whenever there is a public program in the CNMI. The department, she added, has a Benefit Payment Control unit to respond to additional tasks, as required for the PUA program.

"Anything that is falsely misrepresented on an application will be considered fraudulent," she explained, citing an applicant putting in an incorrect earnings amount as an example.

"There are some ways you can sort of red flag an application. If there is an applicant who has the same post office box number as five members of his family, that would put a red flag on that application online. That's just one way," she said.

The secretary noted that they have noticed that many households share the same post office boxes. "That's become an issue on our portal, which we are going to address," she added.

As for repercussions in committing fraud, Benavente said that the state can decide whether it will be a fine, sanction, or jail time, depending on the seriousness of the PUA applicant's fraudulent claim.

"The CNMI is handling all its cases, as far as appeals hearings and any kind of fraudulent case. We will hear it firsthand. If we are required to, we will bring in the U.S. Department of Labor for assistance, but the state can actually decide on these particular fraudulent claims and then refer it to the U.S. Department of Labor for further action," she said.

To report an applicant or application that is fraudulent and/or inaccurate, contact the Department of Labor's fraud hotline at 989-9095.

On Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, at about 6:15pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call reporting an ongoing dispute in Kagman. The caller also stated that the individual was driving a blue sedan.

At about 6:30pm, an officer arrived at the scene, met with the victims, and noticed a nearby vehicle that had repeatedly been hit by a large object. The officer reported his findings to DPS central dispatch and continued to interview the victims.

One of the victims told police that the suspect had arrived at their residence and introduced himself as Ben Basa, asking the victims if he could borrow their vehicle to attend a family meeting. When the victims asked him if he has a driver's license, Basa allegedly replied that he would be borrowing someone's license as he drove off with the vehicle. The victims then got into another vehicle and followed Basa to Kagman. One of the victims got down and told Basa that it made no sense to borrow someone's driver's license and he shouldn't be driving if he didn't have a driver's license. Basa then asked the victims what their problem was and asked if they wanted to "fight" as he punched one of the victims.

Basa then got into the blue sedan and attempted to run the victims over. Before fleeing the scene, he rammed into a Hyundai Elantra parked near the scene.

The blue sedan was later found near the area with no sight of Basa. Another officer conducting patrol around the area located Basa and brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment of his injuries. Around 8pm, Basa was arrested for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, reckless driving, driving under the influence, and criminal mischief. He was brought to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and put in jail. ***(PR)***

Man arrested for alleged assault, other charges

KagES wraps up summer school program

A high 93% of the 110 participants of Kagman Elementary School's summer program were able to improve their reading and math skills, which KagES principle Dr. Ignacia Demapan described as impressive results.

Demapan said the participants were each provided with Kindle Fire devices that allowed them to access applications such as Achieve3000 and a backpack of books to further step up their reading skills. A total of 100 students focused on math and reading, while 10 others participated in the extended school year program for special education.

Eight students who had problems with transportation issues, however, were unable to complete the program.

The participating students ranged from Kindergarten to fifth grade and were selected by teachers. "At the end of our third quarter, the teachers had data on where the students were," said Demapan. "These teachers recommended the students who needed additional instructions."

Demapan also stated that the summer school program, which started last June 22, "road-tested" the Public School System's plan to carry out their hybrid learning approach—face-to-face instruction and remote learning—once classes resume this new school year come September.

Demapan assured that KagES will follow the recommendations of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to prevent the spread of the virus. This will also include limiting the number of students in a classroom, regularly checking their temperatures, requiring face masks, and the use of sanitation.

In preparation for the school's opening, Demapan said they are familiarizing themselves with the new platform that they will use for remote learning.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada expressed appreciation to KagES and Demapan for "conducting the summer school program despite the uncertainty in order to serve the students who needed additional support." ***(Justine Nauta)***

Two deer hunting seasons on Rota

People on Rota would soon be able to also hunt for deer from March to May, in addition to the season covering September to November, once the Department of Lands and Natural Resources finalizes its amendment to the new hunting season that is exclusive to the island.

In response to Sen. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) request to extend the deer season on Rota, DLNR is now drafting the amendment to the regulations concerning the hunting seasons, based on recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General.

The senator originally asked that the hunting season be stretched from August to December, to enable residents to provide food for their families in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the OAG recommended that, instead of having an open season, the hunting be expanded to twice a year.

Santos said in an interview that she is pleased with the decision. "We embrace and endorse having two seasons, so it [helps] our people."

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente informed the senator that the department will be working with its counterpart on Rota to gather data on the deer population on the island, which would involve surveys with the residents, including farmers who are being impacted negatively by the deer population.

"Once these data and surveys are compiled and [shows] that the deer population has multiplied and impacted the agricultural crops, DLNR will begin working in amending the deer hunting season regulations to include an additional season for Rota, and providing the…public with a commenting period of 90 days whether to support or not support such amendment," Santos explained.

This would not be the first time the hunting season would be amended should it push through. In 1987, the then Natural Resources director amended the original regulations set in 1983 (where hunting for antlered deer was set from September to December), also to create two hunting seasons.

The current dates of the hunting season, from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, was also made through an amendment adopted in 1990. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Scheduled water outage for entire Kagman

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the entire Kagman area tomorrow, Aug. 6, 2020, from 8am to 4pm to allow the contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Hong Ye Construction, to perform system improvements by installing a 14"x12"x14" tee and a 12-inch gate valve to the new booster pumps on Chacha Road in Kagman for a more reliable water system.

This work is part of CUC's Kagman Waterline and Booster Rehabilitation Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan , MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447/234-7670; Fax No: 670-234-9021

Notice of Program Availability
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – COVID

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Link: https://nmhcgov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications until Friday, August 14, 2020, and because we have already exceeded our projected number of families to be assisted, NMHC will STOP accepting applications on Friday, August 21, 2020, 4:30 pm until further notice. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
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Fax: (670)532-9441

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Notice of Program Availability
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)– COVID (Second Allocation)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the CDBG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of $274,635 in CDBG-COVID funds to provide emergency housing assistance, specifically mortgage assistance, for CNMI households experiencing financial hardship, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Qualified Alien;
- Must be employed or have income;
- Gross Household Income must be less than 80% of the NMI Area Median Income (AMI) for FY 2020 as determined by HUD;
- Must be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic (e.g. reduction of hours, furloughed but receiving income such as PUA);
- Must show proof of delinquency on a mortgage.
- HUD or NMHC Assisted Loan Borrowers (e.g. HOME Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program) will not qualify as this will be considered a duplication of benefits.
- SBA or USDA RD borrowers must first avail of their respective programs' COVID-19 assistance.

Information on the CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance
- First come, first serve basis;
- Qualified Households will be assisted for a maximum of 3 months;
- If a household is more than 3 months delinquent with their mortgage, they must first pay the outstanding balance above the 3 months' delinquency amount before the assistance is given;
- NMHC will pay the lending institution directly;
- The assistance will be in the amount of up to $900/month for a period of 3 months.

Application Steps
- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices, the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

Please note that if you have already applied for the CDBG-COVID program, our case workers are continuously working on case assessments and you will be contacted for the next steps. Furthermore, NMHC will continue to distribute applications and will STOP accepting applications when the projected number of borrowers to be assisted has been reached. The public will be informed of the last day for application acceptance. Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact the Mortgage and Credit Division at 234-6866/7689/9447.

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Despite fewer virus cases, Hawaii hesitant to open schools

HONOLULU (AP)—The principal of the only school on Lanai thought reopening with full, in-person instruction next month was a no brainer: The Hawaiian island has had no confirmed coronavirus cases, and breezes flow through many of the school's classrooms.

But even there, faculty pushed back, said Lanai High and Elementary School Principal Elton Kinoshita. In the end, only kindergartners and first-graders will meet face to face daily.

While Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of cases per capita in the country and many schools have open-air campuses, the challenges of returning kids full time to classrooms may still be insurmountable. Many residents live in multigenerational homes and fear for their elderly relatives, many schools lack the classroom space to allow for desks to be 6 feet (2 meters) apart, and the state is a major tourist destination and could see a rise in cases if restrictions are eased.

As a result, most schools in Hawaii will institute the hybrid approach being adopted in many parts of the country, with students alternating between attending in-person classes and online instruction. Some schools will have full face-to-face instruction for younger grade levels, but only a handful of schools will offer a full-time, in-person return.

Schools in the only statewide public school system in the nation were scheduled to reopen on Aug. 4, but the teachers union led an effort to delay that. The district and the union agreed to a new date of Aug. 17. The Hawaii Board of Education will consider whether to approve the delay at a meeting Thursday.

The union, Hawaii State Teachers Association, doesn't think the district has done sufficient planning for various scenarios, including what happens if someone gets sick or how to pivot to totally remote learning.

"There is a lot of fear among teachers," said Corey Rosenlee, union president, noting that about 30% of teachers are at least 50 years old. Older adults and people with existing health problems are at risk of developing more severe illness if infected.

As of Wednesday, the state reported 1,865 confirmed cases and 26 deaths.

Teachers are not the only ones who are concerned. Burke Burnett, father of an entering eighth-grader at Kaimuki Middle School in east Honolulu, says many of the school's slatted windows have been shuttered, and the school uses air conditioning.

Burnett, a scientist who is pushing for a phased reopening of schools, said he also supports delaying the start of the school year, so the district can conduct assessments of classroom ventilation. Indoor spaces with poor ventilation are generally considered less safe than ones with open windows.

Hawaii's status as a premier tourist destination is also raising concerns. The state has been requiring all travelers to self-quarantine for 14 days. Officials planned to allow travelers to bypass the quarantine if they tested negative no more than 72 hours before travel but delayed implementing the plan to focus on reopening schools, said Gov. David Ige, a Democrat.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park said it's currently safe to start the school year, but she cautioned against letting guards down—even in open-air classrooms.

Being outside is helpful, she said, but people still need to maintain distance and wear masks.

And she recognized that wouldn't always be easy. "If anyone's ever sat there in the hot sun in a mask, you feel like you're suffocating," said Park, who is also a pediatrician and a mother.

A handful of schools in Hawaii, like Manoa Elementary in a lush Honolulu valley, are in a prized position and plan to fully return to in-person instruction: The school has generous classroom space, and breezes flow freely through wide-open windows and doors.

Lanai High and Elementary School will take advantage of the fact that it sits at an elevation of about 1,500 feet (460 meters), where the morning mist and pine trees cool the campus, allowing most classroom doors and windows to stay open. But the school is stretched for classroom space and so can still only offer limited in-person instruction if desks are to be kept at a proper distance, said Kinoshita, the principal.

He would also like to see a delayed start to the year, partly because he's nervous protective equipment shipments will be delayed, particularly desk shields coming from Japan.

State Sen. Kurt Fevella, a Republican, is opting for all online classes for his daughter, who will be a junior at the state's largest school, Campbell High, in suburban Honolulu.

His daughter, Abigail, is worried about infecting her 80-year-old grandmother, who lives with the family, and how wearing a mask will affect her own asthma.

"I'm kind of afraid that kids will get sick," the 16-year-old said. "My school, we have a lot of kids."

Hand sanitizer is attached to a desk in a classroom at Aikahi Elementary School in Kailua, Hawaii, Tuesday, July 28, 2020. AP

Court strikes down discrimination vs PR residents in key federal programs

A federal judge in the District Court of Puerto Rico ruled yesterday that the federal government's exclusion of Puerto Rico residents from three major social benefits programs is an unconstitutional violation of equal protection.

According to a statement yesterday from the nonprofit group Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for residents of U.S. territories, this ruling comes on the heels of the First Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in *United States v. Vaello Madero* earlier this year, which held that residents of Puerto Rico could not be excluded from Supplemental Security Income and a similar decision in *Schaller v. U.S. Social Security Administration*, which ruled the denial of SSI benefits in Guam in *Pena Martinez v. US Department of Health and Human Services* is unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is likely to take up these issues, which impact nearly 4 million Americans living in five U.S. territories.

Weare

"Federal courts have increasingly come to recognize that constitutional rights cannot depend on whether someone lives in a state or territory," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American. "No citizen should have to choose between receiving the basic benefits they need to survive and being able to live in the place they call home. The court today reiterated that this kind of discrimination is not just wrong, but unconstitutional."

The court ruled in favor of nine plaintiffs who would qualify for federal benefits programs if, instead of living in Puerto Rico, they lived in one of the 50 states. The decision expands on *Vaello Madero*, addressing not only SSI benefits, but also the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps," and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy, which helps cover the cost of a prescription drug plan.

The court rejected the United States' argument that it should limit its ruling to the nine plaintiffs in the case and allow the government to continue discriminating against other residents of Puerto Rico that would be eligible for the programs. Instead, the court issued an injunction that applies across Puerto Rico, providing a 60-day administrative stay for the federal government to implement its ruling, although its ruling will apply immediately to the nine plaintiffs.

The Equally American statement said that the federal government is almost certain to appeal both the merits of the case and the scope of the injunction to the First Circuit, and from there the Supreme Court. If these issues are taken up by the Supreme Court, a decision would likely impact the constitutionality of federal benefits programs not just in Puerto Rico but other territories as well.

"If *Pena Martinez, Vaello Madero*, and *Schaller* are upheld, it could mean billions more in direct federal funding to the most vulnerable residents of U.S. territories," Weare said. "This is critical support that communities across the United State rely on, and territories should be no different. Equality in federal programs for residents of the territories is a matter of basic dignity and justice." ***(PR)***

LTA readies for next batch of IT students

With the success of the Latte Training Academy's partnership with InteliSecure Inc., the organization will be launching a new cohort of its CompTIA Information Technology Fundamentals certification course in early August.

LTA, a federally recognized 501c3 non-profit organization, has trained and successfully secured employment for participants who achieve the CompTIA certification.

"We couldn't have asked for a better outcome for this program. In the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, our team was able to partner with InteliSecure, Inc. to support the set-up and launch of its Security Operations Center in the CNMI. Not only is the timing unprecedented, but the impact that it has had for the students who went through training and achieved their CompTIA certification is significant. At a time when the CNMI is seeking to diversify its economy and companies are contracting due to COVID-19, InteliSecure is expanding and seeking full-time employees to meet its global demand. Once students achieve the required certification, they are screened and referred to InteliSecure for employment opportunities within the [Security Operations Center]," said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez.

The CNMI's Security Operations Center, commonly referred to within the cybersecurity industry as a SOC, launched in May 2020, employing residents who have completed LTA's CompTIA program. While the organization has historically trained their students in the traditional classroom setting, their most recent cohort was the first to complete the course using a Web-based platform.

"It was definitely an adjustment for the students and our team to instruct online. While were able to successfully complete the course, there were a lot of lessons learned that we will implement in the upcoming cohort. Many of the adjustments that will allow us to be successful in this next cohort are outlined during the registration process, which will begin on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020. We recognize that online learning is a new challenge for many people, so we want to ensure participants are aware of some of those challenges ahead of the course," said Herm Kintol, LTA's Information Technology lead instructor.

The organization will host its next cohort from Monday through Friday, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm for three weeks. LTA recognizes that it may have missed individuals who signed up for courses prior to the COVID-19 restrictions and will prioritize contacting those individuals to assess their continued interest.

To learn more about the organization and sign-up for classes, visit www.lattetrainingacademy.org. ***(PR)***

Three stranded mariners are rescued from FSM island

HONOLULU—Emergency responders from the U.S. Coast Guard, Air Force, Royal Australian Navy, and Federated States of Micronesia rescued three stranded mariners from the island of Pikelot in Yap last Monday. The mariners, missing since July 29, are now being transported back to their home on Pulap, Chuuk, by the FSS *Independence.* There are no reports of injuries. The cause of the stranding is unknown at this time.

Capt. Christopher Chase, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam, attributed the success of the search-and-rescue efforts to partnerships. "Through coordination with multiple response organizations, we were able to save three members of our community and bring them back home to their families," he said. "This case highlights the importance of having a plan, and making sure your family knows when you are expected to return. Timely activation of the Search and Rescue System by the mariners' families allowed us to quickly respond with surface and aviation resources. We greatly appreciate the support of the Air Force, Royal Australian Navy, and FSM."

At 12:38am, July 31, Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam watchstanders received a report from a local resident who relayed the report that a 23-foot white and blue skiff with three mariners aboard was overdue while transiting from Puluwat Atoll to Pulap Island, Chuuk, a 21-mile voyage, on July 29.

JRSC Guam watchstanders spoke with the Chuuk State Search and Rescue Liaison and confirmed the report while also contacting the commander of the FSM National Police Maritime Wing.

The JRSC watchstanders issued a SafetyNet (distress) broadcast notice to mariners, deployed an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules Aircrew from Hawaii, and began querying possible volunteer commercial Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System vessels and partners in the area to assist with the search.

Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu personnel assisted JRSC Guam with the coordination of partner agencies assets throughout the case.

The Air Force 506th Air Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron from Andersen Air Force Base was contacted and deployed KC-135 Stratotanker crews to search the area.

The island of Pikelot in Yap, where three stranded mariners were rescued.

U.S. COAST GUARD/MATTHEW WEST

The Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS *Canberra* was also in the region and agreed to divert and provide search sorties with embarked helicopters while the FSS *Independence* departed from Yap to assist.

At 3:09pm, Aug. 1, one of the Air Force KC-135 crews was completing the final leg of their search pattern for the day when they located the stranded mariners on Pikelot Island. "We were toward the end of our search pattern, we turned to avoid some rainshowers and that's when we looked down and saw an island, so we decided to check it out and that's when we saw S.O.S and a boat right next to it on the beach," said Lt. Col. Jason Palmeira-Yen, the KC-135 pilot. "From there we called in HMAS *Canberra* because they had two helicopters nearby that could assist and land on the island."

After discussions between the responding partners, it was decided the safest course of action for both the response agencies' crews and the mariners was to limit exposure to one another due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A helicopter crew from HMAS *Canberra* delivered supplies to the stranded mariners while the Coast Guard Hercules crew airdropped a radio and message block informing them the FSS *Independence* was en route to rescue and return them home.

At 1am, Aug.t 3, the *Independence* arrived on scene, launched a small boat crew and rescued the mariners. ***(USCG)***

Small business open townhall forum today

Hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the "Small Business Open Townhall Forum" is taking place today, Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 4pm to 6pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

The Chamber has invited the heads of the Torres administration, CNMI House of Representatives, CNMI Senate, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors to hear directly from small businesses about their experiences through the COVID-19 economic downturn.

The format of the forum will be "public comment" style, where small businesses will have three minutes to share their thoughts and concerns with guests.

Registration is open to all small business owners and employees, both Chamber members and non-members alike. Registration is limited to one representative per business due to limitations of capacity and social distancing. Participation is open to the first 50 small businesses that register at this link: tinyurl.com/scctownhall.

For more information on the forum or other SCC events, visit its office in the Marianas Business Plaza Room, Suite 315 (Susupe), or contact Maxine Laszlo at 670-234-7150 or via email at executive@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-GOV/PA-095

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF A MULTI-FUNCTION DIGITAL COLOR COPIER, NETWORK, PRINTER, SCANNER (W/ COLOR SENDING), AND I-FAX FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-OPA-01

SUBMISSION DATE: August 6, 2020 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 and 2021"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – THURSDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, OPA AUDIT MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSERS.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-BECQ-092

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY – TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-096

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER BUILDING GUIDEBOOK TO ADDRESS COASTAL HAZARDS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISON OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO DCRM-PLANNING BY EMAIL AT planning@dcrm.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 07, 2020.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DOF/EDP-097

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"HYPER CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL OUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DIVISION OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, MR. JOSEPH TORRES, AT rfp@dof.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, AUGUST 17, 2020 ChST.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

No to a US-China cold war

The announcement Friday that Hong Kong's legislative elections, originally scheduled for September, would be delayed a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic is the latest example of the increasing authoritarianism in China. It came weeks after Beijing adopted a new security law that ostensibly prohibits "secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces" but is in fact a pretext for stopping the waves of pro-democracy protests that have roiled the former British colony since 2014. Amid a cultural purge and increased censorship, the freedoms that China had pledged to uphold following the 1997 handover of the region from Britain have been seriously eroded.

It has been a terrible year for the cause of freedom in China. In June, an independent panel of United Nations experts denounced the crackdown in Hong Kong, including assaults on protesters; the continuing persecution of ethnic and religious minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet; the detention of lawyers; and the ongoing prosecution, even disappearance, of human rights activists.

Sadly, the debilitation of the United States on the world stage has left Washington poorly equipped to speak up for human rights and democracy. Worse, President Donald Trump has shown little interest in such issues, and has instead deferred to an alarming degree to global strongmen.

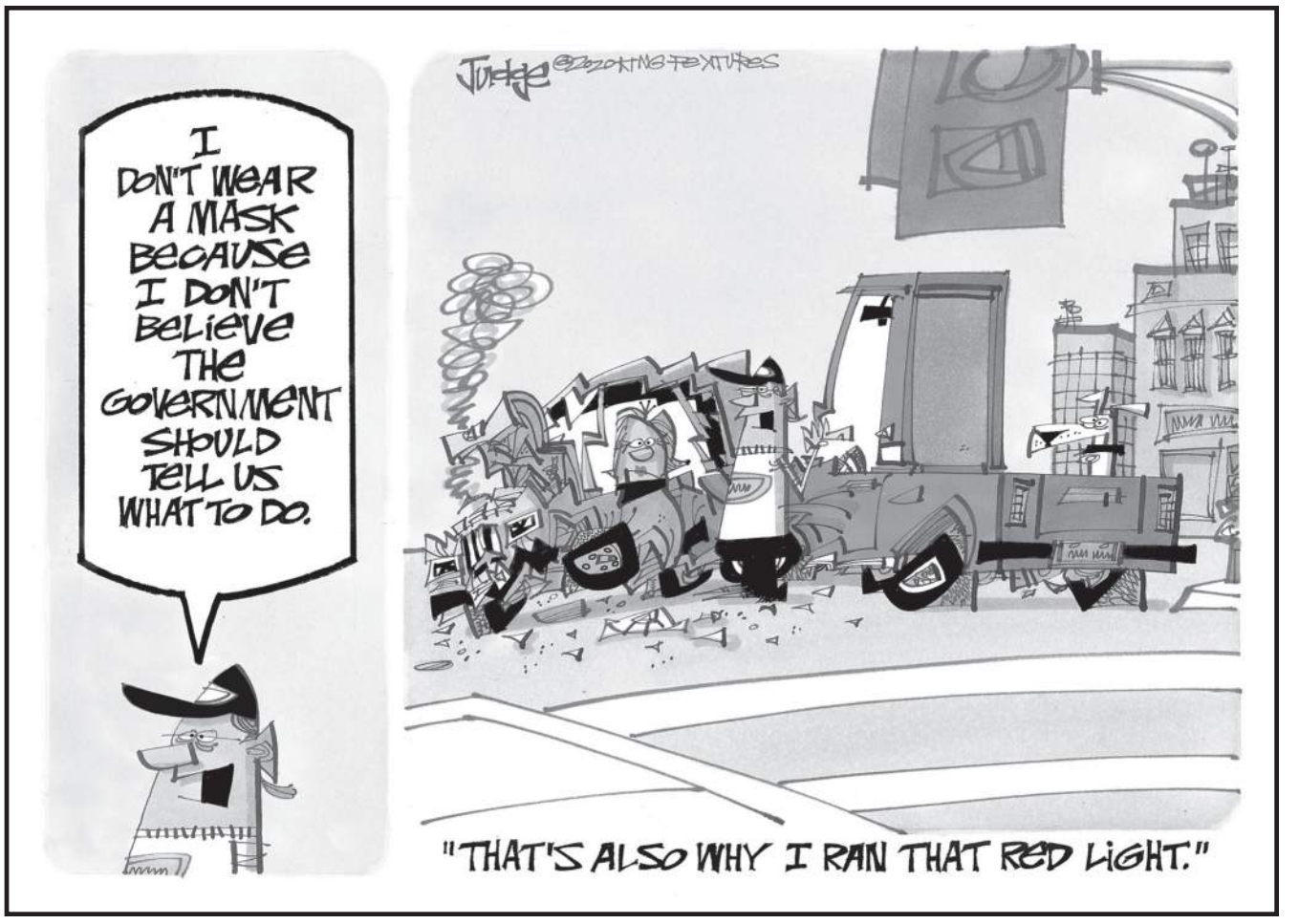
Meanwhile, his administration has sought to dramatically change the U.S. approach to China. "If we want to have a free 21st century, and not the Chinese century of which Xi Jinping dreams, the old paradigm of blind engagement with China simply won't get it done," Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo recently declared. "We must not continue it and we must not return to it."

Although "blind engagement" is a caricature of previous U.S. policy, Pompeo has a point. After the normalization of Sino-American relations in 1979, the United States was largely supportive of China's peaceful rise. A bipartisan consensus across six presidencies held that exchanges of goods, students and ideas would benefit both countries. The United States was crucial to China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001, which helped open vast new markets for China's colossal export industries.

That consensus has now frayed to the breaking point. Trump rose to power in part on his claims that China had taken advantage of the United States, stealing American jobs and technology. Hawks like Pompeo see the Obama administration, in particular, as having been naive and impotent in the face of increasing Chinese aggression, especially in geopolitical hot spots such as the South China Sea.

Trump's complaints about China's unfair trading practices—the theft and extraction of intellectual property, the subsidies for favored Chinese industries and the general disregard for international rules—were valid, as was his observation that previous administrations had failed to change China's behavior. But his get-tough approach did little more than ratchet up tensions and costs on both sides

See US-CHINA on Next Page



Breonna Taylor will be on the cover of O magazine. Here's why it's a big deal

By CHRISTEN A. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

Christen A. Johnson is a features reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Email: chrjohnson@chicagotribune.com

For the first time in 20 years, O, the Oprah Magazine is having someone other than Oprah Winfrey on the cover. It's Breonna Taylor, the young Black woman who was killed in her Louisville home by police as she was sleeping alongside her boyfriend in the middle of the night on March 13. She was 26.

The Louisville Metro Police Department fired Brett Hankison, one of the officers involved in Taylor's death, on June 23, saying his "actions displayed an extreme indifference to the value of human life when (he) wantonly and blindly fired 10 rounds into the apartment of Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020," according to its Twitter account.

None of the officers have been charged for Taylor's death.

The platform Oprah Winfrey has is undeniable, all of which she created herself. Using one of those mediums to fight for Taylor keeps the young woman's story a part of the larger social justice narrative, a space where Black women can often be excluded, erased and forgotten.

"Before Beyonce and Michelle Obama, Oprah was the most visible Black woman in the world," said Salamishah Tillet, cofounder of A Long Walk Home, a national organization based in Chicago that fights against violence to Black girls and women. "To take this moment and share that iconicity and share that power with Breonna Taylor not only speaks to the ways in which she's actively trying to help us remember why everyday Black women are important, but she's also a part of a groundswell movement that is slowly, but consistently, recognizing Black women's life, labor and legacy."

Unlike past deaths of Black women who have died at the hands of police, like Atatiana Jefferson, Rekia Boyd and Sandra Bland—and countless others that haven't made it to the mainstream—there is still a lot of organizing around Taylor, and a lot of momentum still to find justice for her, explained Tillet.

There have been at least two petitions with millions of signatures; many emails and phone calls made and written to Kentucky officials; and a bail fund set up to help the protesters fighting in Taylor's name.

"I think that's unusual given how the recent movement has really centered around the brutal murders of Black boys and men, and so I feel like Breonna Taylor is a really propelling tipping point with people on the ground," Tillet said. "And in the case of Oprah, people with the biggest stage possible are refusing to let her death be unremembered and also not have justice found for her."

Social media has played a significant role as well, with users often accompanying their cries for Black women's justice with #SayHerName, a movement born out of Chicago activism after the 2014 death of 19-year-old Boyd in Douglas Park by a police officer.

"It took a lot of work to recenter the Black Lives Matter movement to acknowledge Black women and girls' stories," said Scheherazade Tillet, co-founder and executive director of ALWH, and Salamishah's sister. "So now you'll see a recentering, hopefully, with someone using their power and privilege to then reshift and keep Breonna's name centered."

Having Winfrey on the cover of her magazine month after month for the last two decades was revolutionary in itself. Being a Black woman of such power and prominence is part of that, yes, but also because Winfrey's aesthetics are counter to an industry that notoriously favors fair skin, sleek hair and tiny hips, and has been known for excluding Black women.

"I just really remember that moment because during the time, Black women weren't really on the cover," said Scheherazade Tillet, who is also an artist. "But (because of Oprah's) body image, her skin tone, that was a radical move. I remember when O came out and buying the magazine because I was seeing the iconic Oprah, but also who Oprah is as a Black woman. So to put Breonna Taylor on the cover for the first time, for her to do that shift, speaks volumes not only to the movement, but to the ones who feel like Breonna Taylor is them."

Scheherazade also said the cover of Taylor is a game changer.

"We need people who have positional power also to use whatever they can to make those who don't have as much—the voiceless—to be front and center as well," she said.

Her sister underscored the sentiment.

"This is what happens when that organizing begins not to just shift the narrative on the ground, but also impact the dominant media narrative."

The September issue of O, the Oprah Magazine will be on stands Aug. 11. To learn more on how to help bring justice to Breonna Taylor, go to StandWithBre.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Federal government has helped GovGuam in pandemic

By DOUGLAS W. DOMENECH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Originally published by Pacific Daily News on Aug. 2, 2020.

The American family is broad and diverse. That's the way it is supposed to be. Both Guam and my family's homeland, Puerto Rico, became U.S. territories in 1898. During World War II, after Japan seized Guam on Dec.10, 1941, U.S. armed forces liberated the island on July 21, 1944, 76 years ago. Today, five U.S. territories enjoy the benefits of being a part of the U.S. family. Freedom, rule-of-law, democracy, and protection by the greatest military on earth are among the benefits that provide a foundation for prosperity.

As of July 2020, the Trump administration, with the support of Congress, has provided over $355 million in support for Guam through the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. This includes funding for public safety, infrastructure, education, energy and public utilities, health care, and other key government services.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the War in the Pacific, we reflect on our fellow Americans in Guam who suffered wartime atrocities during the invasion of the Imperial Japanese forces. One project that was of special importance to the government of Guam, or GovGuam, and the Trump administration was resolving a technical issue in order to provide war claims compensation due to the greatest generation of Guamanians. While a bill authorizing compensation to survivors passed Congress in 2016, a technical glitch kept funds from being disbursed. The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs worked closely with GovGuam, Congress, Treasury, and Interior to successfully solve this problem.

Working closely with Guam's leadership and Congress, President Trump also directed a historic amount of funding to support local efforts to respond to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The President mobilized 42 federal agencies and provided millions of dollars in support to individuals in Guam, health care services, and schools. As part of that support, Interior's OIA awarded GovGuam with over $12 million in CARES Act emergency relief funding to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, OIA was able to use the CARES Act funding to support a non-profit organization located in Guam that works with Micronesian families in order to keep them informed, aware, and safe during the pandemic.

On top of the CARES Act funding, last month OIA announced several Technical Assistance Program grant awards to GovGuam totaling $2,660,642 to, among other things, support the modernization of public services and digitization of important records, to invest in essential equipment upgrades, to train key hospital staff, and to strengthen internal financial forensics in the territory. An additional award of $334,260 was awarded to the University of Guam to build and train a cadre of museum curatorial experts.

The list of grants includes:

■ $1,219,950 to the Guam State Clearinghouse for the digital archival of historical government documents and historical records in the Guam Public Library System;

■ $366,989 to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority to train nursing and revenue cycle management staff;

■ $334,260 to the University of Guam to develop professional curators;

■ $310,000 to the Office of the Attorney General for financial forensics training;

■ $309,828 to the Department of Land Management for IT upgrade, equipment, and supplies;

■ $300,500 to the Bureau of Statistic and Plans to modernize Guam's customs and import operations; •$95,175 to the Department of Education for internal audit and financial affairs training; and

■ $58,200 to the Department of Public Works for a new CCTV system and barcode inventory system.

All of these projects will benefit the people of Guam in a multitude of ways and will enhance the capabilities and performance of the local government.

The federal government and Guam have a very important and mutually beneficial partnership. We are part of the same American family.

Douglas W. Domenech is the U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Insular and International Affairs.

US-CHINA

From Page 8

of the Pacific.

If we've learned anything from the extended trade war with Beijing, it's that the United States can't bully China into the mainstream. It needs to assemble a broad coalition of countries behind a higher set of standards for exporters to operate under—including labor laws and environmental protections—making it harder for China to remain an outlier. And in the meantime, it needs to enforce more aggressively the trade rules China agreed to honor as a member of the WTO.

Trump, sadly, has gone in the opposite direction. Rather than building coalitions, he abandoned multilateral trade deals and antagonized other major exporting nations with tariffs. And he has sought to render the WTO toothless by blocking appointments to a key panel that judges trade disputes.

It's a pattern repeated across multiple areas of interest regarding China. Trump's chaotic leadership and his dictatorial leanings have severely eroded America's standing in the world—damage that will take decades to repair.

The Thucydides Trap is a term that describes an apparent tendency toward war when a rising power threatens to displace an established one. The sad truth is that the authoritarians who lead the two nations—Xi, who took office in 2012, is all but certain to be president for life, and Trump, who in 2018 joked, "Maybe we'll give that a shot someday"—have made the trap more likely to become a reality.

It would be a tragedy if hawkish and nationalist tendencies in Washington and Beijing intensified. The United States and China still have the potential to collaborate on global challenges—especially the climate crisis—and to promote peaceful global development. China's rise does not require America's decline.

But to once again lead on the world stage, the United States must first renew its own democracy. It must support democracies in Asia—including India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Taiwan—while continuing to engage with China on trade and human rights. Engagement has often been frustrating and unproductive, but the alternative—bellicosity and a ratcheting up of tensions between the superpowers—is unthinkable.

(c) 2020 *Los Angeles Times*

How James Baldwin spoke to immigrants like me

By LEAH MIRAKHOR
LOS ANGELES TIMES

James Baldwin was born Aug. 2, 1924, in Harlem, to parents who were children of former slaves. For migrants fleeing an economically depressed and racist South, Harlem was not much better, and his parents struggled to provide anything close to the American dream for their children. "By the time you are 7," he recalled near the end of his life, "you know why you are in a ghetto."

Baldwin knew by then that the Pledge of Allegiance's promise of "liberty and justice for all" would not apply to him or his siblings, but his father insisted he recite the words each day at school, terrified of what would happen if he did not.

In August 1987, when I was 7 years old, my family came to the United States as refugees, joining a drove of asylum-seekers from across the world. My father fled Iran, aided by smugglers who helped him cross the Iran-Pakistan border. After several weeks, my mother, sister and I flew from Tehran to Paris to meet him. And by December 1987, the year Baldwin died, we had settled in Queens, a subway ride away from his Harlem.

Of course, I didn't know that at the time. I wouldn't encounter Baldwin's searing and impassioned prophecies for another decade—no one in my family had read him, no one in my primary schools had taught his work. But when I finally encountered him after starting college, his words changed my life. In the pages of his novels, essays and plays, I came to understand both my father's terror and my adopted country. Baldwin provided me with a blueprint for what it meant to be an American.

In 1948, when Baldwin fled America for France, he was neither a migrant nor a refugee, but he was, as he later wrote, at the "end of a certain rope," living an impossible nightmare in the country of his birth. He was either going to be killed or kill somebody if he stayed. He was also trying to escape his father's fate of becoming embittered, angry and beaten down by his native country.

As Baldwin fled America, refugees and migrants were fleeing to America, seeking to escape the authoritarian regimes that had curtailed their livelihoods and find a place of safety and prosperity. The irony was not lost on Baldwin. As he stated in his 1965 debate with William Buckley, the "American dream comes at the expense of the American Negro."

By 7, I had absorbed the grammar of American life. I realized even before I became fluent in English that I did not want to assimilate; I wanted to disappear into whiteness. This terrified my father.

One morning as he walked me to school, I told him I wanted to change my name to Julie and have blond hair. Like Baldwin, my father understood that my desired erasure meant a "profound rupture" with our history, our language, even our connection. He would often remind me, "Americans do not know who they are."

I later learned that wanting to become "American," for the immigrant, often really meant wanting to become a white American. "White," Baldwin reflected in 1978, "is really a metaphor for safety and for power and that is why people are white." Immigrant children know this truth even before they can articulate it. And our parents, fearing for our safety, knew like the Irish, Italian and other immigrants before them, that they, as Baldwin said, "would not like to be Black here."

The problem, as my father anticipated, even if he didn't express it this way, was that his children had been socialized to accept the invitation to become white. And with that invitation came the danger so many recent immigrants face of forgetting why we came to this country, the danger we would embrace its baser aspects.

"The tragedy of this country now," Baldwin wrote in 1963, "is that most of the people who say they care about it do not care. What they care about is their safety and their profits. What they care about is not rocking the boat. What they care about is the continuation of white supremacy."

In his vast body of work, Baldwin showed us how to bear witness to the past "with both pride and despair," so that we could break from the tragedy of the present. Baldwin told the stories of Black Americans who came "from a long line of runaway slaves who managed to survive without passports." And in these histories, he reminded us of what it might mean to be an American.

By By LEAH MIRAKHOR
Los Angeles Times

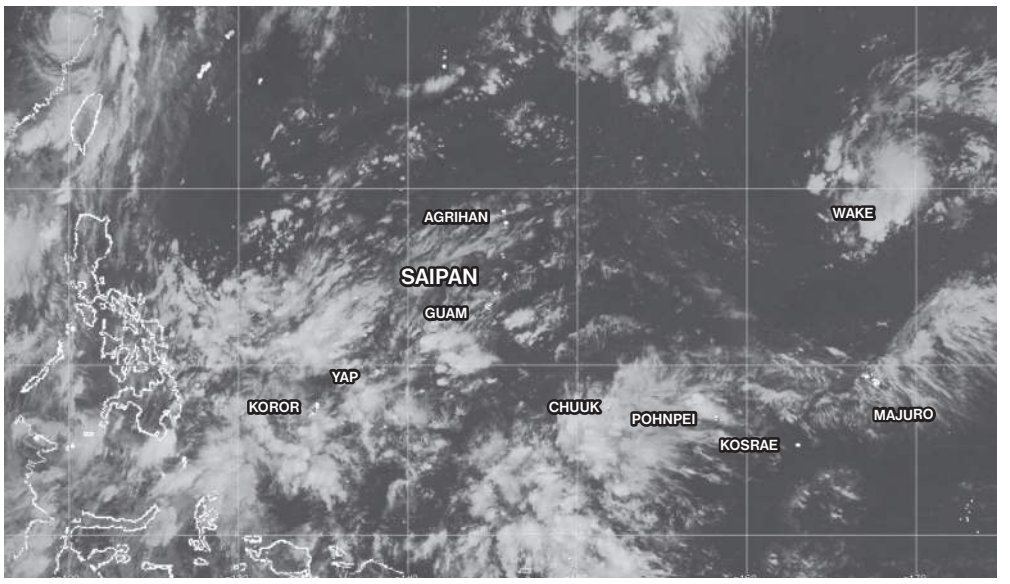
Leah Mirakhor is a writer and critic based in New Haven, Connecticut. She teaches at Yale University.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
90° 79°	90° 79°	88° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:35 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are mostly cloudy this morning with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and west of Guam, and isolated showers east of the islands. Moderate trade winds are present across the Marianas waters with seas of 4 to 6 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:06 AM	8:06 PM
Thursday	-	7:57 AM	8:45 PM
Friday	-	8:46 AM	9:22 PM
Saturday	-	9:33 AM	9:57 PM
Sunday	-	10:19 AM	10:32 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	62° / 53°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90° / 74°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	78° / 62°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 78°
Melbourne	Showers	51° / 42°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	94° / 78°
Paris	Sunny	86° / 62°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	87° / 65°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	90° / 75°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	86° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:01 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.24
7:51 AM	LOW TIDE	1.99
3:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.01
9:55 PM	LOW TIDE	1.95

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

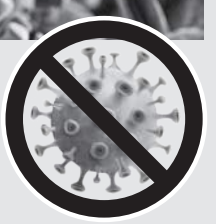
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD



The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Learning never stops at LIVEnglish

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Established three years ago, LIVEnglish located in Gualo Rai aims to teach local and foreign students to not just learn material but to live it. Owner Pamela Olivia V. Walsh operated a small English conversation school in Japan for eight years and taught in several companies and public schools. She believes in trying to cultivate a learning environment that has substantial effects on a student's educational progress.

"That's where our name, LIVEnglish comes from… LIVEnglish is a multifaceted program that immerses students in an 'English environment and culture' abroad. Since Saipan is a diverse community, we help foreign students with English proficiency, English as a second language, conversational skills, and offer homestay programs," she said

"We accept foreign and non-foreign students from pre-Kindergarten (or 3 years old) all the way to adults and we also offer Homework Help, Business English, College Preparation, and Basic Japanese lessons… We also offer tutoring services and lessons online," she added.

Attending summer school for children has proven to be more important than ever to regain learning loss when the COVID-19 virus was declared as a pandemic in March with many schools abruptly closed and went online. Walsh believes that extra courses taken mean a good head start in the incoming school year.

For more information, call (670) 287-7577

"We would like to make the most out of the summer break for students and currently, we have an ongoing 'Summer School Before Back to School' program that runs for 10 days Monday to Friday from 1pm to 3pm. This includes 20 hours of reading, writing, and Math for kindergarten to 12th grade students and we also have tutoring services Monday-Friday, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm," Walsh said.

LIVEnglish accepts students from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

"The safety of students and teachers is also our priority. We require hand washing and sanitizing before each activity transition. We conduct classes under a very limited class size to observe social distancing. We adhere to extensive cleaning procedures before lessons and right after every class finishes," Walsh added.

Walsh is all for parents and students who invest in education by taking extra classes that can help them to take more advanced classes and be a step ahead among their peers. "I have been teaching young children for over 15 years and it has been rewarding and a great part of my life. I can't imagine doing anything else," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
With over eight years of teaching experience, LIVEnglish's Pamela Olivia V. Walsh believes in cultivating the right learning environment for every student.

"We treat students like family, parents always appreciate the work we do to help their children… At LIVEnglish, we help students hone their academic and social skills and learn from teachers and other students in a more personal environment," she added

LIVEnglish is located on second floor of Pine Tree Building Middle Road in Gualo Rai. For more information, call (670) 287-7577 or send them a message on Facebook "LIVEnglish International or email at livenglish@icloud.com and liveenglishinternational@gmail.com

Bank of Hawaii Guam employee tests positive for COVID-19

GUAM—Bank of Hawaii confirms that a branch employee in Guam has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual had no close contact with other employees and customers at the branch. Out of an abundance of caution, certain employees who work in the individual's vicinity will be tested and quarantined.

The employee, who works at Bank of Hawaii's Hagatna Branch in Guam, last worked on Monday, Aug. 3 GST, and is in self-quarantine at home.

A professional sanitization service deep-cleaned and sanitized the branch yesterday evening, Aug. 3. Hagatna Branch will remain open.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, as an essential business, Bank of Hawaii has implemented stringent protocols in its branches and locations. All branch employees are required to wear face masks, practice and enforce social distancing, and queue customers six feet apart. All branches have been fortified with plexiglass barriers, social distancing signage and markers, and sanitation supplies. Hand-sanitizing solution is available for employees and customers. All customers and clients entering a BOH branch or facility have been required to wear face masks since July 6.

To further help minimize the risk of spreading the coronavirus, all on-site employees follow cleaning procedures at the start and end of each day, in addition to the bank's daily scheduled janitorial cleanings. ***(PR)***

United plans to resume service on more than 25 int'l routes in September

CHICAGO—United Airlines today announced it plans to resume service on nearly 30 international routes in September, including flights to Asia, India, Australia, Israel and Latin America and to continue to add ways to visit popular vacation destinations in the Caribbean, Hawaii and Mexico. The airline intends to fly 37% of its overall schedule in September as compared to the same period last year and is a 4% increase in capacity compared to what is planned for August 2020. United is also extending its waiver of change fees and award redeposit fees for reservations through August 31.

"We continue to be realistic in our approach to building back our international and domestic schedules by closely monitoring customer demand and flying where people want to go," said Patrick Quayle, United's vice president of International Network and Alliances. "In September, we're adding even more options for leisure travelers or those who want to visit friends and relatives, whether that's within the United States or around the world."

Domestically, United intends to fly 40% of its schedule. The airline plans to add more than 40 daily flights on 48 routes to locations including Austin, Texas; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Santa Barbara, California. Additionally, United plans to resume service between the U.S. mainland and Hilo and Kauai and increase flying to Honolulu, Kona and Maui in the Hawaiian Islands.

Internationally, United intends to fly 30% of its schedule as compared to September 2019, which is a 5-point increase compared to August. The airline expects to resume service on 20 routes in Latin America and the Caribbean, including to popular vacation destinations like Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico and to San Jose and Liberia in Costa Rica. United intends to begin new nonstop service between Chicago and Tel Aviv and resume eight routes in the Atlantic and Pacific, including the return of European service from Houston with flights to Amsterdam and Frankfurt.

US domestic

Travelers in search of more socially distant vacation options like beach, mountain and national park destinations will continue to see opportunities for leisure travel including:

- Increasing opportunities to connect to more than 800 flights from United's midcontinental hubs in Chicago, Denver and Houston.
- Adding more than 40 daily flights on more than 48 routes across the United States.
- Resuming service between the U.S. mainland and Hilo and Kauai in Hawaii
- Increasing service between the U.S. mainland and Honolulu, Kona and Maui.

Atlantic

Internationally, United is scheduled to fly 30% of its schedule in September compared to the same period in 2019. Across the Atlantic, United plans to offer customers more opportunities to get to Europe and beyond from Chicago, Houston, New York/Newark, and San Francisco. Highlights include:

- Launching brand-new service between Chicago and Tel Aviv (subject to government approval)
- Resuming service between Chicago and Amsterdam.
- Resuming service between Houston and Amsterdam and Frankfurt.
- Resuming service between San Francisco and Munich.
- Increasing to daily service between Chicago and Frankfurt, and between San Francisco and London.
- Continuing service between the United States and Delhi and Mumbai (subject to government approval). Pacific Across the Pacific in September, United plans to re-start three-times-weekly service between Los Angeles and Sydney and passenger service between Chicago and Hong Kong (subject to government approval).

Latin America/Caribbean

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, United is expanding across each region by adding 20 new routes for September. Highlights of United's schedule include:

- Starting new service between San Juan, Puerto Rico and Chicago and Washington-Dulles.
- Resuming service from Houston to Aguascalientes, Tampico and Veracruz in Mexico.
- Starting new service between New York/Newark and St. Thomas.
- Resuming service between Costa Rica and Houston and New York/Newark.
- Adding more ways to get to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, including resuming service from Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles.
- Resuming service between Denver and Cabo San Lucas.
- Increasing the number of flights between Houston and Quito, Ecuador.

Committed to Ensuring a Safe Journey

United is committed to putting health and safety at the forefront of every customer's journey, with the goal of delivering an industry-leading standard of cleanliness through its United CleanPlus program. United has teamed up with Clorox and Cleveland Clinic to redefine cleaning and health safety procedures from check-in to landing and has implemented more than a dozen new policies, protocols and innovations designed with the safety of customers and employees in mind, including:

- Requiring all travelers – including crew members – to wear face coverings and potentially revoking travel privileges for customers who do not follow these requirements, as underscored in a recent video from United CEO Scott Kirby.
- Using state-of-the-art high-efficiency (HEPA) filters on most United mainline aircraft to circulate air and remove up to 99.97% of airborne particles.
- Using electrostatic spraying on all mainline aircraft before departure for enhanced cabin sanitation.
- Adding a step to the check-in process, based on a recommendation from the Cleveland Clinic, requiring customers to acknowledge they do not have symptoms for COVID-19 and agree to follow our policies, including wearing a mask on board.
- Offering customers a touchless baggage check-in experience at more than 200 airports across the United States; United is the first and only U.S. airline to make this technology available.

For more details on all the ways United is helping keep customers safe during their journey, please visit united.com/cleanplus. ***(PR)***

Nation

Hurricane Isaias makes landfall in N. Carolina

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Hurricane Isaias has made landfall near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center. The hurricane touched down just after 11 p.m. on Monday with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (136 km/h).

Coastal shops and restaurants closed early, power began to flicker at oceanfront hotels and even the most adventurous of beachgoers abandoned the sand Monday night as newly restrengthened Hurricane Isaias sped toward the Carolinas.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned oceanside home dwellers to brace for storm surge up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) and up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain in spots, as Isaias moved up the coast. The Carolinas weren't the only states at risk.

"All those rains could produce flash flooding across portions of the eastern Carolinas and mid-Atlantic, and even in the northeast U.S.," said Daniel Brown, senior hurricane specialist at the U.S. National Hurricane Center. A tropical storm warning extended all the way up to Maine, where flash flooding was possible in some areas on Wednesday.

The center also warned of possible tornadoes in North Carolina on Monday night and early Tuesday, and from eastern Virginia to southern New England later Tuesday.

AP

People walk on the flooded Sea Mountain Highway in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., as Isaias neared the Carolinas on Monday night, Aug. 3, 2020.

Isaias (pronounced ees-ah-EE-ahs) was upgraded again from a tropical storm to a Category 1 hurricane at 11 p.m. EDT. The storm was centered about 40 miles (64 kilometers) east northeast of Myrtle Beach. It was moving north northeast at 22 mph (35 kph). The Hurricane Center said it expected the storm to make landfall early Tuesday near southern North Carolina.

Isaias killed two people in the Caribbean and roughed up the Bahamas but remained at sea as it brushed past Florida over the weekend, providing some welcome relief to emergency managers who had to accommodate mask-wearing evacuees in storm shelters.

President Donald Trump on Monday described Isaias as "very serious."

"Storm surge and inland flooding are possible and everyone needs to remain vigilant until it passes," Trump said.

Authorities in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, ordered swimmers out of the water to avoid rough surf and strong rip currents. By nightfall, power began to flicker at beachfront hotels as Isaias crossed the last bit of warm water on its path toward the U.S. mainland.

Still, on this part of the South Carolina and North Carolina coasts that has been affected to varying degrees by seven tropical storms or hurricanes since 2014, residents weren't panicking.

"It's just going to be a lot of wind and high tide," said Mike Fuller, who has lived along the coast for more than a decade.

As the storm neared the shore, a gauge on a pier in Myrtle Beach recorded its third highest water level since it was set up in 1976. Only Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 pushed more salt water inland.

Oceanfront streets throughout the area flooded as the sea ended up nearly 10 feet (3 meters) above low tide.

Up the coast in southern North Carolina, high winds from Isaias' inner core knocked down trees and power lines, blocking roads. No major damage was initially reported.

Kids getting caught in crossfire as US gun violence surges

CHICAGO (AP)—July in Chicago ended as it began: Mourning the death of a child whose only mistake was venturing outside to play when someone armed with a gun came to the neighborhood hunting for an enemy.

On Monday, two days after his department released statistics that revealed the month had been one of the deadliest in the history of the city, Police Superintendent David Brown repeated what has become a grim ritual of recounting the death of a child.

This time, the story was about Janari Ricks. "Nine years old, (he) was shot and killed while doing what every child in our city should able to do without a second thought ... playing with friends on a warm summer evening just outside his front door," said Brown. "Now, instead of planning for his future, Janari's parents are arranging for their child's funeral."

His death underscores a surge in gun violence in the the United States that has been building all year.

In New York City, there have been 237 homicides in 2020 compared to 181 for the same period last year.

In Atlanta, the totals are lower but the surge is apparent: 76 homicides so far this year compared to 56 for the first seven months of 2019. Of this year's total number of homicides, 23, or nearly a third, were recorded in July alone.

It has been a similar story in Boston. After recording 25 homicides in the first seven months of 2019, Boston had 35 during the same period this year. And 15 of those were during July.

Just how many of the year's victims are children is difficult to say. But every day headlines around the country tell story after story of children dying while doing nothing more than being children.

In Ohio, in little more than a week: A 14-year-old boy in Columbus died on July 25 when he was shot while riding a scooter; An infant was killed and his twin brother wounded when someone fired shots into their home on July 22. And on Sunday, a 1-year-old was killed in Akron and two adults wounded when someone opened fire on a home.

It was not immediately clear exactly how many children were homicide victims this year in Ohio, but in Columbus alone, the total stands at 13.

In Philadelphia, a 7-year-old shot in the head over the weekend during a shootout between three men in front of his home later died of his injuries. Police spokesman Inspector Sekou Kinebrew said Zamar Jones died Monday. The boy was sitting on his porch Saturday when he was shot.

One of the men involved in the shooting, Christopher Linder, 27, was arrested and charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault, and now faces murder charges, the district attorney's office said. The others involved in the shooting aren't in custody.

According to Philadelphia police, the city has seen a 36% increase in gun violence this year over last year. The number of people murdered through Sunday was 255, a 34% increase over last year, and more than the annual total for 2014, when 248 people were slain.

In the minutes after July became August, the Chicago Police Department reported there had been 105 homicides during the month compared to 44 in July 2019, making it the deadliest month in the city since September 1992.

Chicago had suffered 440 homicides by the end of July, compared to 290 for the same period last year. And more and more of the victims are children.

Brown said Janari was the 38th juvenile to be fatally shot in the city this year. In all, 19 children under the age of 10 have been shot in 2020, five of them fatally.

According to a report published Monday in the Chicago Tribune, those five homicides are more than double the tally for children under 10 shot and killed than in any other year in the last eight years.

Navy investigates video of dogs attacking Kaepernick fill-in

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The U.S. Navy is investigating an incident in which dogs attacked a "Colin Kaepernick stand-in" during a K-9 demonstration during a 2019 fundraiser at the Navy SEAL Museum in Florida.

The Navy said in a statement posted on Twitter that officials became aware of the video on Sunday.

Kaepernick is a former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who began kneeling during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" before games to protest social injustice and police brutality. He played his final NFL game in January 2017. He offered support to those protesting the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers in May, and the NFL's commissioner has apologized for not listening earlier to players' concerns about social injustice.

The videos show four dogs attacking a man, who is wearing a red Kaepernick football jersey over heavily padded gear as people stand nearby watching. In a second video, the man is laying on the ground when he's approached by men wearing fatigues and holding rifles, saying, "On your belly." The man replies, "Oh, man, I will stand," as he rolls over, followed by laughing from the crowd.

The videos were apparently posted on Instagram last year and resurfaced over the weekend.

"The inherent message of this video is completely inconsistent with the values and ethos of Naval Special Warfare and the U.S. Navy," the statement said.

The Navy said the "initial indications" are that no active duty personnel or equipment were used in the demonstration at the "independent organization's event."

The Navy SEAL Museum is located in Fort Pierce, Florida, which is north of West Palm Beach on the state's Atlantic Coast. According to its website, the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the U.S. Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

The museum's stated main objective is the promotion of public education, with events for both children and adults. Children between the ages of 10 and 15 were recently given first-hand demonstrations on the care and training of working dogs as part of the museums "Frogman Foundry" program. The museum is not officially connected to the Navy. It was designated as a National Museum by an act of Congress and signed into law in 2008.

Asia

AS VIRUS CASES SURGE

Manila back under lockdown

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Commuter trains, buses and other public vehicles stayed off the main roads of the Philippine capital Tuesday and police were again staffing checkpoints to restrict public travel as surging virus cases forced another lockdown.

Officials deployed dozens of shuttle buses, along with army trucks, to ferry stranded medical personnel and workers of authorized businesses. Most domestic flights to and from the capital were cancelled, and night curfews will return in places.

Crowds trooped to some supermarkets Monday to stock up on food after the hasty return to a lockdown sparked panic-buying.

The lockdown is milder than was first one imposed, which largely confined most people to their homes for weeks, but is more severe than the quarantine restrictions the capital had been under recently. It is being imposed in metropolitan Manila and outlying provinces for two weeks.

Businesses previously allowed to partly reopen, including barbershops, gyms, dine-in restaurants and tourist destinations, will again be closed. Authorized companies including banks, health and food processing firms must shuttle their employees between home and work. Travelling by bike, motorcycle and private car is allowed for essential reasons, but mass transit will be closed.

President Rodrigo Duterte agreed to reinstate the lockdown after medical groups warned the health care system was being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. More than 106,000 people have been infected, including more than 2,100 who have died.

AP

Women exit from a disinfecting area after buying food at a public market in preparation for stricter lockdown measures in Quezon city, Philippines on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020.

In other developments in Asia and the Pacific:

■ Australia's hard-hit Victoria state banned people who should be self-isolating from exercising outside their homes and introduced tougher fines for infected people who continue to go to work. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said self-isolation was hard to enforce if people used a lawful excuse to justify other decisions. Military and health teams who knocked on the doors of 3,000 homes recently could not find 800 people who should have been there because they had the virus or were awaiting a test result. The government has also increased the fine for failing to self-isolate from 1,652 Australian dollars ($1,169) to AU$4,957 ($3,507). The most serious cases could also be taken to court and fined up to AU$20,000 ($14,151), Andrews said. Victoria reported 439 new cases overnight and 11 new deaths.

■ Both mainland China and Hong Kong reported fewer new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday as strict measures to contain new infections appear to be taking effect. Mainland China announced 36 new cases across the country, down from 43 the previous day. Of those, 28 were in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and two in Liaoning province in the northeast. Another six cases were brought by Chinese arriving from overseas. Hong Kong reported 78 new cases, the first time in almost two weeks that new cases had fallen into double-digits. Authorities ordered mask wearing in public places, restrictions on indoor dining and increased testing to contain the city's outbreak. China's central government also sent a medical team to assist in efforts and an exhibition center has been converted into a temporary hospital in the event beds run short. Deaths from the disease in Hong Kong have risen to 38 among 3,589 total cases.

Vietnam confirms 21 more cases in new virus outbreak

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has confirmed 21 more coronavirus cases linked to three hospitals in the central city of Da Nang, the health ministry said Monday. The country, which had lifted many restrictions after more than three months with no local infections, now has 196 cases in the new outbreak.

Fifteen of the new cases were in Da Nang, Vietnam's most popular beach destination, while six others were in neighboring Quang Nam province. All were patients or relatives of patients at the three hospitals in Da Nang, where the outbreak emerged, the ministry said.

Vietnam had been widely praised for its success in controlling its initial outbreak of the coronavirus, with no reported cases of local transmission for 99 days. But nine days ago, a case was confirmed at a Da Nang hospital.

The virus has now spread to six parts of the country, including three large cities, forcing authorities to reimpose virus restrictions. Officials have confirmed three deaths, the country's first from the virus.

The health ministry said 40% of the new cases show no symptoms.

"The asymptomatic cases are a danger for transmission in the community," acting health minister Nguyen Thanh Long said. "Therefore, we must not overlook any suspected cases."

On Monday, the army deployed a mobile lab truck to Da Nang to increase testing capacity in the city.

During a government meeting on Monday, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc urged all provinces to control the outbreak in early August, calling it a "crucial time."

"Each family must be a fortress and each citizen must be a warrior to keep the outbreak from spreading widely in the community," Phuc said.

He urged residents to be vigilant to help control the virus and ensure health security. But he said there shouldn't be a rush to close businesses because health should to be balanced with economic security.

World

Israel bombs military targets in Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli fighter jets and attack helicopters struck military targets in southern Syria belonging to the Syrian army Monday night, hours after thwarting an infiltration attempt from Syria by suspected militants trying to plant explosives, the Israeli military said.

In a rare statement acknowledging strikes in neighboring Syria, the army said the targets included "observation posts and intelligence collection systems, anti-aircraft artillery facilities and command and control systems" in Syrian army bases.

Syria acknowledged the strikes, saying that Israeli helicopters fired missiles at Syrian army outposts and reported unspecified "material damage."

The incident comes amid heightened tension on Israel's northern frontier following a recent Israeli airstrike that killed a Hezbollah fighter in Syria and anticipation that the militant Lebanese group would retaliate.

Earlier Monday, Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said Israeli troops spotted "irregular" activity in the Golan Heights. Israeli troops opened fire on the suspected militants, some of whom were armed, after observing them placing the explosives on the ground, Conricus said.

There was no official confirmation that the four suspected attackers were killed but a grainy video released by the army shows four figures walking away from barbed wire marking the frontier. The four then disappear in a large explosion that engulfs the area.

The Israeli military has not said if the four are suspected of ties to Iran or Hezbollah, two Syrian allies. However, Conricus said Israel held the Syrian government responsible for the incident.

Addressing Likud party lawmakers, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel "thwarted an attempted sabotage on the Syrian front" and would continue to "harm all those who try to harm us and all those who harm us."

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and later annexed the territory. The U.S. is the only country to have recognized Israel's annexation.

Tensions have been high on Israel's northern frontier following the Israeli airstrike that killed the Hezbollah fighter in Syria last month. Following the airstrike, the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights was hit by explosives fired from Syria and Israel responded by attacking Syrian military positions and beefing up its forces in the area.

Israel has been bracing for further retaliation and last week it said it thwarted an infiltration attempt from Lebanon by Hezbollah militants, setting off one of the heaviest exchanges of fire along the volatile Israel-Lebanon frontier since a 2006 war between the bitter enemies.

Israel considers Hezbollah to be its toughest and most immediate threat. Since battling Israel to a stalemate during a monthlong war in 2006, Hezbollah has gained more battlefield experience fighting alongside the Syrian government in that country's bloody civil war.

After 40 years of calm, the Israel-Syrian frontier has heated up in recent years as Iran has tried to establish a military foothold on Israel's doorstep while helping Syrian President Bashar Assad in his country's yearslong war. Hezbollah also has aided Assad.

Spain's former king leaving country amid financial scandal

MADRID (AP)—Spain's former monarch, Juan Carlos I, is leaving Spain to live in another, unspecified, country amid a financial scandal, according to a letter published on the royal family's website Monday.

The letter from Juan Carlos to his son, King Felipe VI, said: "I am informing you of my considered decision to move, during this period, out of Spain."

Juan Carlos, in the letter, said he made the decision against the backdrop of "public repercussions of certain episodes of my past private life."

He said he wanted to ensure he doesn't make his son's role difficult, adding that "my legacy, and my own dignity, demand that it should be so." Juan Carlos' current whereabouts were not known.

Spain's prime minister recently said he found the developments about Juan Carlos -- including investigations in Spain and Switzerland -- "disturbing."

Since Spain's Supreme Court opened its probe earlier this year, Spanish media outlets have published damaging testimony from a separate Swiss investigation into millions of euros (dollars) that were allegedly given to Juan Carlos by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah.

Juan Carlos allegedly then transferred a large amount to a former companion in what investigators are considering as a possible attempt to hide the money from authorities. The companion, Corinna Larsen, is a Danish-German businesswoman long linked by Spanish media to the former king. Spanish prosecutors have asked her to provide testimony in the case in September in Madrid.

The 82-year-old former king is credited with helping Spain peacefully restore democracy after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

But marred by scandals in the later years of his reign, Juan Carlos in 2014 abdicated in favor of his son Felipe VI, losing the immunity from prosecution Spain's Constitution grants to the head of state.

After media reports claimed Felipe was a beneficiary of an offshore account holding an alleged 65 million-euro gift ($76 million) from Saudi Arabia to Juan Carlos, Felipe renounced any future personal inheritance he might receive from the former king. Felipe also stripped his father of his annual stipend of 194,232 euros ($228,000.)

The royal house has denied that Felipe had any knowledge of his father's alleged financial irregularities.

The royal website said in a statement that Felipe respected his father's decision.

Felipe acknowledged the historic importance of his father's reign, the statement said, but also "reaffirmed the principles and values on which it stood, in the framework of our Constitution and the rest of our legal system."

A statement from Spain's general prosecutor's office in June said it was investigating whether Juan Carlos received millions of dollars in kickbacks from Saudi Arabia during the construction of a high-speed railway there by a Spanish consortium.

It called the probe one of "undeniable technical complexity."

Good Housekeeping

Gretchen's table: Queso fundido with chorizo

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Don't you just love queso fundido? I know I do.

The Mexican version of fondue, the hot dip made with ooey gooey cheeses is the perfect way to kick off a meal of tacos or enchiladas because it's 1) easy to make and 2) immensely sharable. If you add enough chorizo to the mix, and add roasted peppers and chopped fresh tomatoes, it can even serve as a satisfying supper for those nights when you don't feel like preparing a big meal.

There are many ways to make it, but it generally has a few core ingredients — melty cheese(s), onion, chili pepper and some kind of spicy sausage. My family likes it with chorizo, a highly seasoned ground pork sausage, but you also could use hot Italian sausage.

Some like to serve fundido with warm tortillas but I prefer tortilla chips, which can be easily made at home with corn tortillas.

Chihuahua or quesadilla cheese are usually found in the Mexican cheese section at larger grocery stores. But if you strike out, substitute another mild melting cheese like Monterey Jack or mild cheddar. I topped the dip with chopped cherry tomatoes because they were ripe in my garden.

QUESO FUNDIDO WITH CHORIZO

PG tested

For chips

1 package white or yellow corn tortillas

2 tablespoons avocado or vegetable oil

1 teaspoon sea salt, or to taste

For queso

1 or 2 poblano chili peppers

1/2 cup crumbled Mexican chorizo

1/2 medium white onion, very thinly sliced

Salt

12 ounces shredded Chihuahua or other Mexican melting cheese, such as quesadilla, or a mixture

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Cut tortillas into 8 triangles by cutting them into quarters and then into eighths.

Place pieces in a large bowl.

(GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS)
Queso fundido with chorizo and roasted poblano peppers is a satisfying, cheesy appetizer.

Drizzle oil and salt over triangles and, using your hands, mix well so everything is evenly coated.

Place tortillas in a large roasting pan or divide evenly between 2 baking sheets and spread into an even layer. Bake for about 15 minutes, or until browned and crispy. Remove from oven and set aside; chips will keep in air tight container for up to 4 days. Keep oven hot.

Make fundido: Place the peppers directly on the burner of a gas stove turned to high heat. When one side of the pepper is fully blistered (this should take about 5 minutes), turn it with tongs and start charring another side. Repeat until the entire pepper is blackened. Alternatively, rub peppers with a little vegetable oil, place on a cookie sheet and cook under broiler, turning frequently, until they are charred.

Place peppers in a plastic bag and seal, or place in a bowl and cover. Allow to steam for about 10 minutes to loosen the skin. When peppers are cool enough to touch, rub the skin off with your fingers or a paper towel. Chop into thin strips and set aside.

Add chorizo to a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, breaking the meat up with a wooden spoon, until sausage is crisp and brown. Remove to a paper towel-covered plate to allow to drain.

Add onions to pan and cook until they are starting to brown (you may have to add a little oil or butter), then add pepper strips and continue cooking another 3 to 4 minutes. Add half of the cooked chorizo back to pan and stir to combine.

Place half of the shredded cheese in a small cast-iron skillet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until it has melted completely. Remove from oven, and top with pepper-chorizo mixture. Cover with remaining cheese, then spoon remaining chorizo on top.

Place back in oven and bake for another 5 or so minutes, until cheese is oozing and browned along the edges. Top with chopped tomatoes, and serve immediately with chips.

Serves 4 to 6.

Homemade salad dressings: Say goodbye to the bottle

By DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

A salad without dressing is just a pile of limp, uninspired lettuce.

It is the dressing that makes a salad sing. It brings the greens to life, it makes the produce productive. What was once mere vitamins and roughage and something that sticks to your teeth becomes, with the measured application of a dressing, a dish to praise and celebrate.

And it is all due to some oil and a little vinegar, and maybe yogurt or a splash of lemon juice.

Salad dressing is something you can make yourself; the possibilities are endless. Try adding a combination of different herbs to oil and vinegar, or go for a sweet dressing with honey and a bit of fruit.

Best of all, dressings are both fast and easy to make — unless you make seven different dressings at one time. Then they take longer than you might think and are kind of a hassle.

I made seven dressings for this story, both vinaigrettes and yogurt-based dressings. Some were tart, one was sweet and all were beautifully balanced. Each one was perfect with lettuce, but many could also be served with vegetables or even fruit.

I started with a Bistro Vinaigrette. This is the dressing we have on hand at all times at my house, a dressing I sometimes eat literally every day of the week. It is my favorite dressing, and if you try it, it will probably become your favorite dressing, too.

It is so good that I decided to write a story about salad dressings just so I could write about Bistro Vinaigrette.

It is a simple vinaigrette (oil mixed with vinegar or lemon juice), enlivened, as many are, with Dijon mustard. But it stands out in a few ways: It has chopped shallots in it, and the shallots are allowed to rest in the vinegar and salt for 10 minutes before the mustard and oil are added. This extra step smooths out the shallots' sharp edge.

And there is one more key factor that makes the dressing so good — it does not use olive oil, which is typically used for vinaigrettes. Olive oil has too strong a flavor for this dressing. A neutral-flavored oil, such as grapeseed or canola, keeps the dressing's delicate flavors in harmony.

Next, I made an herb vinaigrette, which means the time has come to talk about emulsions.

You know how oil doesn't mix with water or vinegar or, for that matter, egg yolk? How it separates into a gross, oily mess?

(HILLARY LEVIN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS)
Homemade Caesar salad dressing.

When you emulsify a dressing, you pour oil very slowly into vinegar (or lemon juice) and usually something like mustard or an egg yolk while whisking it together very fast. Through a miracle of science that would take a long time to explain, and I'd probably get it wrong, the oil and other ingredients blend into one another and can stay combined for up to several days.

If they separated again before you're done with the dressing, just shake it vigorously together in a jar with a lid and it will recombine certainly long enough to enjoy your salad.

The Herb Vinaigrette is a great example of an emulsion. You slowly add corn oil to a beaten egg yolk, whisking (or using a blender) all the while. That makes an easy emulsion, but what makes this dressing superb are the ingredients you add after it is combined: minced garlic, minced parsley, minced dill and minced basil for a fresh, herbaceous taste, and some wine vinegar for just the right bite.

The same principle holds true for the classic Caesar Dressing, which is another of my all-time favorites. Here, the oil is enthusiastically whisked into a mixture of egg yolk, lemon juice and Dijon mustard.

That emulsion actually wouldn't be bad on its own, but we are here to praise the Caesar dressing — not to bury it — because of the other ingredients that are added to it. Using a sharp knife, you make a paste of anchovy fillets, garlic and salt, and whisk that into the emulsion.

If it sounds complicated, don't worry. As Caesar himself said, "Experience is the teacher of all things."

Note: I am well aware that the Caesar Salad was named for its creator, Caesar Cardini. However, as far as we know, Cardini never said "Experience is the teacher of all things."

My next emulsified dressing came from a restaurant that, for many years, was considered the finest in Richmond, Virginia. Of all the things La Petite France did well, one of the best was its vinaigrette named for its owner-chef, Paul Elbling.

Sauce Vinaigrette "Chef Paul" has more going on in it than the other dressings I made. Along with the egg yolk, mustard, vinegar and oil — two types of oil, actually — it has white wine and a wealth of aromatic ingredients. These include thyme, oregano, nutmeg, rosemary, basil, garlic and white pepper.

In the wrong hands, this would end up as a brash cacophony of flavors. But Chef Paul knows what he is doing. His hand is subtle, and the result is exquisite. This is a dressing to serve on a special occasion, such as happening to have it on hand (which is likely, because you make a quart and a half of the stuff at a time), or you are simply in the mood for a sublime dressing.

Life & Style

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson acquires XFL

Former wrestling star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson said he has acquired the XFL.

The 48-year-old Johnson made the announcement Monday on Twitter. The price reportedly is $15 million.

The XFL had eight franchises and played five games out of a planned 10-game schedule before canceling the remainder of its season in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It drew decent TV ratings early on and had deals with ESPN and Fox.

Johnson

The league suspended operations and laid off all of its employees on April 10 and filed for bankruptcy protection on April 13.

Since ending his wrestling career, Johnson has became a movie star, including in the "Fast & Furious" and "Jumanji" franchises.

Spring football is a difficult challenge, as the Alliance of American Football found out in 2019, not lasting a full season, either.

A previous version of the XFL also played one season in 2001. ***(AP)***

Pipe by pipe, Notre Dame Cathedral organ gets 4-year cleanup

PARIS (AP)—Pipe by precious pipe, the organ that once thundered through Notre Dame Cathedral is being taken apart after last year's devastating fire.

The mammoth task of dismantling, cleaning and reassembling France's largest musical instrument started Monday and is expected to last nearly four years.

Once restored, it will take six months just to tune the organ, according to the state agency overseeing Notre Dame's restoration. Its music isn't expected to resound again through the medieval Paris monument until 2024, to the dismay of the cathedral's dedicated organists.

"It's a very powerful organ, but with also a lot of poetry," said Johann Vexo, who was playing the organ during an evening Mass when the fire alarm sounded on April 15, 2019. "It's just probably the most beautiful organ in the world."

Amazingly, the 8,000-pipe organ survived the fire, which consumed the cathedral's roof and toppled its spire. But the blaze coated the instrument in toxic lead dust that must now be painstakingly removed.

And while the organ didn't burn, it did suffer damage from a record heatwave last summer and has been affected by other temperature variations it's been exposed to since the 12th-century cathedral lost its roof, the agency said. Notre Dame remains closed to the public.

Experts started removing the organ's keyboards Monday and will then take out its pipes in a dismantling process that will last through the end of this year, according to the reconstruction agency. The pieces will be placed in special containers inside the huge cathedral, where the cleaning and restoration will take place.

The general who leads the agency said the organ, which dates from 1733, will next play again on April 16, 2024, marking five years since the fire.

In this Thursday, May 2, 2013 file photo, Philippe Lefebvre, 64, plays the organ at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. AP

Reporter sues the Golden Globes organization over member rules

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Norwegian entertainment reporter on Monday sued the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the organization that gives out the Golden Globe Awards, alleging that it acts as a cartel that stifles competition for its members.

Reporter Kjersti Flaa, filed the lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles, saying that despite reporting on Hollywood for many prominent Norwegian outlets, she has been repeatedly denied membership in the organization. Her suit contends the HFPA consistently rejects qualified new applicants like herself whose work competes with that of existing members.

The suit alleges the organization allocates foreign markets among its members, requires new applicants to pledge not to write for any publication claimed by a member or a rival of that publication, and denies applications that might compete in a market claimed by one of its members.

"Qualified applicants for admission to the HFPA are virtually always rejected because the majority of its 87 members are unwilling to share or dilute the enormous economic benefits they receive as members," the suit says.

Universal Orlando is laying off undisclosed number of workers

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Almost two months after reopening, Universal Orlando is laying off an undisclosed number of workers.

Universal spokesman Tom Schroder said in an email Monday that the Florida theme park resort was reducing its workforce "to reflect current priorities and needs."

Universal has put the construction of a new theme park, Epic Universe, on pause because of the pandemic. Comcast, Universal Orlando's owner, reported last week that the company's theme parks division shrank to $87 million in revenue from $1.46 billion a year ago.

"We are prioritizing daily operations and shorter-term projects and continuing our pause on longer-term projects such as Epic Universe as we allow the tourism industry to recover," Schroder said.

Like theme park operators around the U.S., Universal Orlando closed its doors in mid-March as the novel coronavirus started spreading in the U.S. It was the first of Orlando's major theme park operators to reopen when it welcomed back visitors in early June. SeaWorld reopened in late June, and Walt Disney World welcomed back visitors last month.

Dad feels helpless to mend teenager's crisis of identity

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old daughter recently came out of the closet, and it has made my husband and me quite upset. She says she is "bicurious, pansexual and polyamorous." She now insists everyone call her by a gender-neutral name, gave herself a side shave and dyed her hair pink after we repeatedly told her not to. She wants us to refer to her as "they" and not "she."

Boys used to like her, and she used to have friends, but she threw it all away to be "unique." You may think we should let her be true to herself, but in the process, she is disrespecting us and ruining her image. She thinks she's all grown up and can do whatever she wants, and I just can't get through to her.

She is also letting herself go. She used to be in good shape, but she quit track and field because it was a "gender-conforming" sport. She is now getting chubby, looks horrible and is depressed. Help!

DAD WITHOUT ANSWERS

DEAR DAD: Your daughter may, indeed, be depressed. She's at an age where she is trying to figure out who she is, and because she has lost her friends and her parents are mad at her, I can understand why.

It is very important that you not panic. Her hair will grow back; her gender identity and sexual orientation will be confirmed with time. The most important suggestion I can offer would be to love your daughter, stop criticizing her and make an appointment for you and your husband to talk with a psychologist with expertise in adolescents. Above all, she needs the support of her parents right now.

DEAR ABBY: I met this beautiful woman online three months ago. We haven't met in person yet, but plan to. We spend at least eight hours a day online together, and our relationship has really advanced. I know she's real and not a "catfish" because we talk about everything. We even tell each other the L word.

My dilemma is, she has a second Facebook account and absolutely refuses to accept my friend request. She says she needs her privacy, and it's none of my business. She also tells me her friends on that page are all male co-workers. She said she prefers to have mostly male friends in her life.

Am I wrong to be upset if she refuses to let me see that profile or be one of her friends there? Am I asking too much? I asked her what happened to transparency, but she won't answer that question either. What's going on here?

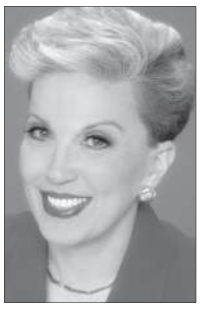
STUCK ON HER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STUCK: Although you have spent a lot of time online with this woman, your relationship is still new. As your relationship proceeds, how will you feel about the fact that most of her friends are other men?

I DO think there is something going on, which is the reason she doesn't want you to see that account. The most important question is: Do you trust her? You won't know the answer to that until your relationship has developed further. So stop using the L word until you know her much, much better.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 11 years told me that when his former mother-in-law dies, he would like to go to the funeral. He was friendly with her before he married her daughter. I'm not OK with this. What do you think?

UNUSUAL IN THE SOUTH

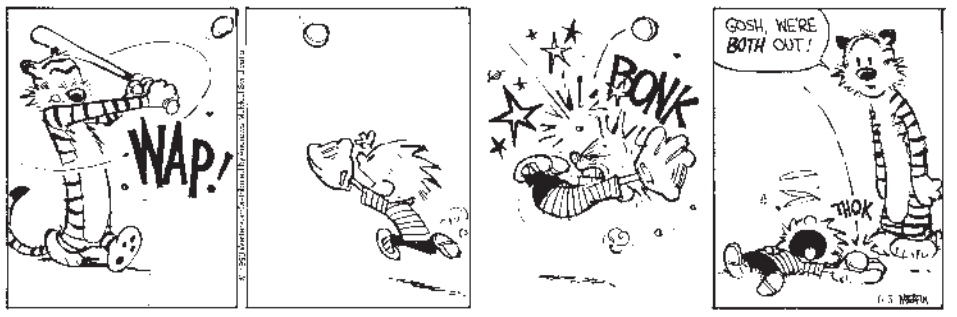
DEAR UNUSUAL: If your husband feels the need to pay his respects to his former mother-in-law, he should do it. And when he does, it would be nice if you were at his side, supporting him in his grief.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

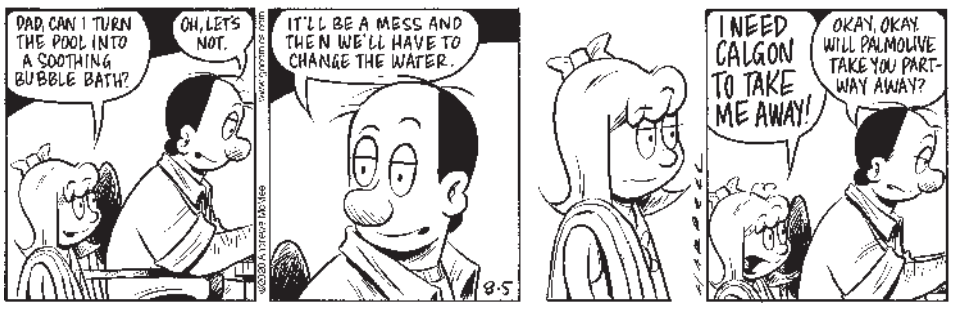


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, CAN I TURN THE POOL INTO A SOOTHING BUBBLE BATH?
OH, LET'S NOT.
IT'LL BE A MESS AND THEN WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE WATER.
I NEED CALGON TO TAKE ME AWAY!
OKAY, OKAY. WILL PALMOLIVE TAKE YOU PART-WAY AWAY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IS IT JUST THE TWO OF YOU...
OR ARE YOU EXPECTING ANYONE ELSE TO JOIN YOU?
NOT UNLESS YOU BLABBED TO THE BILL COLLECTOR WHERE WE'RE EATING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ore deposit
5 "The Simpsons" barkeep
8 IRS enforcer
12 Tend texts
13 Reply (Abbr.)
14 Anger
15 Reminder to Santa
17 Doctrines
18 Duplicity
19 Trite
21 Meadow
22 Frost lines
23 Favorite pal, in a text
26 Insult, slangily
28 Grind your teeth
31 First bed
33 Pouch
35 Scolding sounds
36 Scoped out
38 Globe
40 Chart-topping song
41 Locks
43 "Alley —"
45 Chinese meal beverage
47 Theater platforms
51 Airline to Tel Aviv
52 Plate holder
54 Ore source
55 — -de-France
56 Helen's home
57 Pen fluids
58 Approves
59 "Auld Lang —"

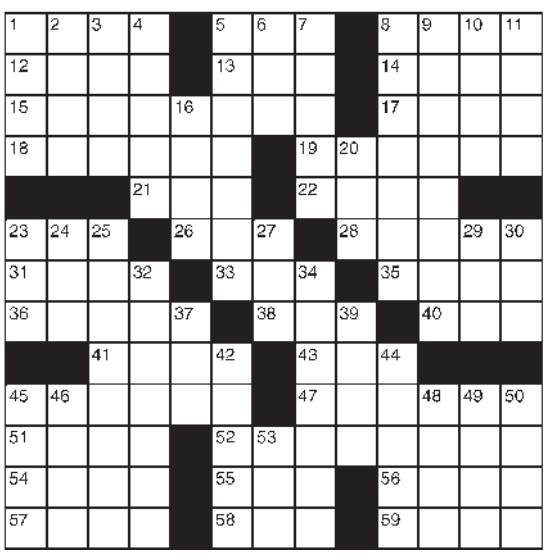
DOWN

1 Lascivious
2 "Garfield" dog
3 Platter
4 Lucy's pal
5 Rum cocktails
6 Carry- — (travel bags)
7 Bar legally
8 Neptune's spear
9 Hodge-podge
10 — mater
11 Tree home
16 Fibbed
20 Yule fuel
23 Abbr. in an email
24 Monk's title
25 Home aquarium
27 — Paulo
29 Enjoy the Alps
30 DDE predecessor
32 The Fab Four
34 Intersects
37 Conk out
39 The pair
42 CBer's device
44 Segments
45 Half (Pref.)
46 Lena of "The Reader"
48 Actor Sinise
49 Nobel Prize subj.
50 Terrier type
53 Sort

Solution time: 23 mins.

O	L	A	F		S	A	P		N	O	P	E
G	O	A	D		H	U	R		O	M	E	N
L	O	R	A	I	N	E		V	A	R	Y	
E	M	P		B	L	T		A	O	Π	T	A
			C	E	L		N	B	C			
D	E	A	L	T		T	R	U	A	N	T	S
E	T	R	E		A	D	A		I	O	W	A
S	C	R	O	L	L	S		A	N	N	A	N
			L	C	B			C	E			
S	C	R	A	P		A	N	C		D	O	M
L	O	C	I		M	I	G	R	A	I	N	E
I	M	A	N		S	R	O		I	D	E	A
P	O	S	E		G	E	T		_	O	S	T

Yesterday's answer B-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lolo Jones, 38; Jesse Williams, 39; Jonathan Silverman, 54; Maureen McCormick, 64.

Happy Birthday: You may not like the changes that take place this year, but as time passes, you will discover you can save money and, as a result, find peace of mind and a chance to live a simpler lifestyle. Restrictions can build strength of character and make you realize what's truly important to you. Put your health and personal pleasures first. Your numbers are 6, 13, 23, 29, 32, 35, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep busy, live up to your promises and don't stop until you have taken care of your responsibilities. Let your actions speak for you, and you will gain respect and the assistance you need to reach your target. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't fight the inevitable. Size up what you will have to do, and formulate a strategy that will ensure your success. Your actions will have the most significant impact. Stubbornness will work against you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep an open mind and a sharp eye on what transpires. Don't let distancing shove you out of the loop. Stay in touch with your associates and on top of what's going on within the industry you work. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the edge off by doing something that pleases you. Anger won't help you get your way, but channeling your energy into doing the best job possible will bring good results. Choose your battles and associates wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Touch base with past associates or peers through social media, and the information you receive will help you make a progressive move. Put your energy into using your skills diversely and achieving your goals. Personal improvement will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Assess how you feel and what you want to happen, and you will gain insight into what you need to do to reach your objective. Research rules and regulations that you'll need to abide by to proceed. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Patience will be required when dealing with seniors or youngsters. Find a way to keep others occupied and out of your way. Anger and frustration will stand between you and what you plan to accomplish. Self-improvement will motivate you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to your game plan. Don't let what others do influence how you go about your business. A positive change at home will bring you peace of mind and encourage you to hone a skill that will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let outsiders interfere in your business. Handle your investments, documents and contracts yourself. Someone will take advantage of you if given a chance. Honesty will be vital to maintaining good connections with those you love. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll encounter competition if you try to start something new. Look at what you are up against, make adjustments and rethink your strategy before moving forward. A change at home won't please everyone. Joint ventures will fall short. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do something to boost your morale. Physical activity will motivate you to make changes to the way you look. Make fitness, proper diet, health and emotional well-being your priorities. Honesty will play a role when dealing with relationship issues. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't believe everything you hear. Reach out to an organization you believe in, and do your part to make a difference. Someone from your past will have an impact on the changes you make. Think twice before you make a move. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, innovative and persuasive. You are ambitious and protective.

isit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	6	8	7	3			
		8			2	6	5	
		7			1			3
	3					4		6
7							8	9
2							7	
	5					2		
		1			4			
			9	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	7	3	9	5	1	6	8	4
6	8	9	2	4	7	1	5	3
4	1	5	8	6	3	2	7	9
1	2	7	6	9	8	3	4	5
5	6	8	7	3	4	9	1	2
9	3	4	1	2	5	7	6	8
7	4	6	3	8	2	5	9	1
3	5	1	4	7	9	8	2	6
8	9	2	5	1	6	4	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FORD MUSTANG **Solution: 11 letters**

T	S	I	Z	E	C	O	B	O	O	S	T	C	N	G
R	R	Y	N	O	P	R	E	V	I	R	D	E	A	R
U	A	O	L	T	O	R	Q	U	E	A	L	L	G	A
N	E	C	I	E	P	E	P	U	O	C	E	A	I	N
K	Y	O	S	N	D	H	V	I	S	H	B	K	H	D
E	N	R	E	A	R	O	I	U	A	R	N	R	C	P
R	S	S	F	M	N	T	M	L	I	C	R	A	I	R
E	A	E	P	O	A	H	D	A	I	A	O	L	M	I
V	L	A	L	O	O	E	O	J	J	P	B	C	I	X
I	E	T	E	D	R	R	T	J	S	O	R	O	C	L
F	D	C	E	M	O	T	A	B	E	C	A	P	S	A
T	L	E	A	O	E	N	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	U
E	P	N	D	R	S	E	D	A	C	E	D	A	L	N
S	R	E	W	O	P	T	P	E	C	N	O	C	L	C
T	T	T	I	K	C	A	B	H	C	T	A	H	Y	H

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Air Bag, American, Cars, Clark, Coded, Concept, Coupe, Dearborn, Decades, Door, Driver, EcoBoost, Gale Halderman, Grand Prix, Hatchback, Iacocca, Joe, John, Kitt, Launch, Lee, Mach, Michigan, Model, Muscle, Najjar, NASCAR, Option, Oros, Philip, Pony, Power, Race, Rear, Roof, Sale, Sally, Seat, Size, Space, Speed, Sport, Team, Test, T-Five, Torque, Trunk, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Pinky Swear

Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Zion delivers, keeps Pelicans in playoff race

AP

New Orleans Pelicans' Zion Williamson (1) is fouled by Memphis Grizzlies' Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) as he shoots over Grizzlies' Jonas Valanciunas (17) during the second half of an NBA game Monday, Aug. 3, 2020 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)— Zion Williamson said he felt "alive again" after getting a chance to help his team close out a game.

Brandon Ingram scored 24 points, Williamson added 23 points and matched his career high with five assists in his most extensive playing time since the NBA restart, and the New Orleans Pelicans got a much-needed 109-99 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

"My competitive spirit was there and I'm glad Coach and the whole team trusted me to finish the game out," Williamson said.

After being limited to a combined 29 minutes in his first two games back, Williamson played 25 minutes, although he appeared to get fatigued when he didn't hustle back on defense and was taken out with 6 minutes to play. But he returned a short time later and helped the Pelicans close on a 12-6 run.

"The medical guys thought that he was able to go back in and play," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "... He played really good down the stretch."

The game also included another Williamson shoe incident.

Williamson drove the lane in the third quarter and landed awkwardly, losing his left shoe. However, the big man quickly put the shoe back on and remained in the game. It brought back memories of when the then-Duke freshman sensation injured his knee in February 2019 when his foot ripped through the side of his shoe as he attempted to plant his foot.

Ingram was solid late, making a pair of jumpers including a transition 3 to help hold off the Grizzlies.

Jaren Jackson Jr. had 22 points for the Grizzlies, who fell to 0-3 since the NBA restart. Ja Morant struggled from the field, finishing with 11 points on 5-of-21 shooting.

"Our offense has got to be better," Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said. "... If we play a little better on the offensive end I think we will be in a good spot."

After the game, Morant tweeted, "instead of giving up on the face of adversity, you should face it with a positive attitude & smile."

Lonzo Ball had called it a "must-win game" after the Pelicans lost their first two games since the restart, dropping them to 11th place in the Western Conference standings.

Now they're 2 1/2 games behind the eighth-place Grizzlies. The ninth-place team can qualify for a play-in matchup against the eighth-place team as long as it is within four games. The Pelicans still need to move past the Spurs and Trail Blazers to get to ninth place.

Lakers 116, Jazz 108

Anthony Davis had 42 points and 12 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers clinched the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs by beating the Utah Jazz.

The Lakers (51-15) own a six-game lead over the second-place Los Angeles Clippers and have five seeding games let before starting their first playoff run since 2013. Utah (42-25) has clinched a playoff berth and is fifth in the West, a half-game behind Houston and a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City.

Davis' final basket resulted in a 4-point play with 42 seconds left, as he sank a 3-pointer while getting fouled by Rudy Gobert and made the ensuing free throw to give the Lakers a 114-104 lead.

LeBron James scored 22 points, Dwight Howard had 11 and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 10 for the Lakers.

Donovan Mitchell scored 33 and Mike Conley had 24 for Utah. Gobert added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz.

Raptors 107, Heat 103

Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 36 points and made seven 3-pointers, and defending NBA champion Toronto added to its strong restart by beating Miami.

VanVleet finished 7 of 12 from beyond the 3-point arc and was a perfect 13 of 13 from the foul line, besting his 34-point total against the Pelicans last December.

Pascal Siakam added 22 points and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and eight rebounds for the Raptors, who are 2-0 since play resumed last week. Toronto resumed its season by beating the Lakers and remains in second place in the Eastern Conference.

Goran Dragic had 25 points for the Heat.

Nuggets 121, Thunder 113, OT

Michael Porter Jr. scored a career-high 37 points and Nikola Jokic had a triple-double to help Denver top Oklahoma City.

Jokic had 30 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. He scored 13 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to help Denver strengthen its hold on third place in the Western Conference standings.

Porter, who averages just 7.5 points, had the big performance in only his third start of the season. His previous career high was 25 points. He also grabbed 12 rebounds.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 24 points, Chris Paul had 23 and Danilo Gallinari added 20 for the Thunder, who also were short-handed. Thunder coach Billy Donovan said Dennis Schroder, Oklahoma City's No. 3 scorer for the season, left the bubble to join his wife for the birth of their second child.

76ers 132, Spurs 130

Shake Milton made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 7.2 seconds remaining and Philadelphia beat San Antonio.

Joel Embiid had 27 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who opened a 14-point lead early in the fourth quarter and then recovered after falling behind by four in the final minute.

Embiid, who was coming off a 41-point, 21-rebound performance in a loss to Indiana on Saturday, followed that effort by shooting 9 for 17 as Philadelphia evened its record in the restart.

Tobias Harris scored 25 points and Josh Richardson had 19 for the 76ers.

DeMar DeRozan scored 13 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter for San Antonio, which fell to 2-1 in Florida Rudy Gay scored a season-high 24 points and Derrick White added 20.

Pacers 111, Wizards 100

T.J. Warren kept up his red-hot restart with 34 more points, helping Indiana pull away from Washington.

Two nights after scoring a career-best 53 points in the Pacers' first game at Disney, Warren had 16 points in the third quarter to spark a 22-2 run after Washington had fought back into the game.

Warren shot 14 for 26 from the field and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Pacers, who improved to 2-0 since resuming the season. They played without star guard Victor Oladipo, who rested on the first night of back-to-back games.

Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, seven rebounds and six assists in his Disney debut, and Myles Turner and Aaron Holiday each added 17 points.

Thomas Bryant had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who fell to 0-3 at Disney and likely won't be sticking around terribly long.

Thomas, Koepka favored in PGA Championships

SAN FRANCISCO—They've combined to win the last three PGA Championships, and they'll start this week as betting co-favorites at TPC Harding Park.

Justin Thomas and Brooks Koepka went toe-to-toe Sunday in Memphis, with Thomas getting the win and getting back to world No. 1 in the process. His lone major triumph came at the 2017 PGA at Quail Hollow, while Koepka is looking to become the first player to win three straight PGAs since Walter Hagen won four in a row in the 1920s.

Koepka and Thomas are listed as 10/1 co-favorites according to oddsmakers at the Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook. Both Koepka and Thomas opened at 14/1 when the odds were re-released in March following the tournament's postponement.

Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm and Bryson DeChambeau are next on the list at 14/1, while Tiger Woods has dropped from 20/1 to 30/1 in the last five months. Players who have seen their odds dramatically reduced in that time include Daniel Berger (125/1 to 35/1), Matthew Fitzpatrick (125/1 to 40/1), Viktor Hovland (80/1 to 40/1) and Collin Morikawa (60/1 to 30/1).

Tiger gets ready

Thomas, fresh off a victory at the WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational, will try to join Woods and McIlroy as the only players to win a WGC and PGA Championship in back-to-back weeks.

Woods continued his prep for the season's first major championship with a nine-hole practice round on Monday at TPC Harding Park. Following an 18-hole round on Sunday, he teed off just after 1pm and played the front nine on a cool and overcast afternoon.

Woods will tee it up for just the second time since the PGA Tour came out of quarantine. The four-time PGA winner finished in a tie for 40th at the Memorial Tournament. He missed the cut last year at the 2019 PGA Championship, a year after coming in second behind Koepka at Bellerive Country Club.

The 15-time major champion can never be counted out, though. But, as we learned at the 2019 U.S. Open, the marine layer can make it hard for him to loosen up his back. Woods only has played four competitive rounds since February. But he has good memories at TPC Harding Park. Woods won the WGC-American Express Championship over John Daly in 2005 and went 5-0 at the 2009 Presidents Cup and unleashed a club twirl that will never be forgotten. ***(NBC)***

Cole extends streak to 19, beats Phils in debut

NEW YORK (AP)—This was not what Gerrit Cole had in mind for his debut in pinstripes, and yet it was.

Cole extended his regular-season streak of victories to 19, leading New York over the Philadelphia Phillies 6-3 on Monday night for the Yankees' seventh win in a row.

With the Yankee Stadium seats empty due to the novel coronavirus, wife Amy watched from home as Cole pitched his home debut for New York.

"Mom and dad had a few of neighbors over in California," Cole said. "They sent us some pictures as they were watching the game. My folks, they're a little bummed that they couldn't be here, to be honest."

New York improved to 8-1 for the third time after 1988 and 2003—but it's the equivalent of 22-3 over a 162-game season. The streak of the major league-best Yankees is tantamount to a 19-game spurt.

"Even though it is a shorter season, it's a long way to go, right" Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We need to keep grinding now."

Cole (3-0) allowed six hits, struck out four and walked one on 91 pitches, leaving after a 1-hour, 7-minute rain delay ahead of the seventh. His grunts could be heard as easily as Rafael Nadal's at a grand slam final.

A month shy of his 30th birthday, the right-hander reached 99.3 mph, but he did not have his best arsenal. Cole threw 46 fastballs, 24 sliders, 18 knuckle-curves and three changeups.

Signed to a $324 million, nine-year contract, Cole grew up a Yankees fan, and at his signing news conference in December brought along the now-yellowed sign he had held up as an 11-year-old at the 2001 World Series: "Yankee Fan Today Tomorrow Forever."

With no fans, there was no Roll Call by adoring Bleacher Creatures counting on Cole to lead the Yankees to their first title since 2009.

"It was special put on the uniform. It was special to warm up in that bullpen and it was special to take the field from that side of the field," Cole said. "Obviously, pre-coronavirus, when you dream, you don't dream about pitching in a stadium without any fans. But I guess we're kind of getting used to it at that point. So I just try to savor the things that that I enjoyed."

He is 19-0 with a 1.86 ERA over 25 starts, the sixth-longest streak of winning decisions behind Carl Hubbell (24), Roy Face (22) and Rube Marquard, Roger Clemens and Arrieta (20 each). Cole did lose to Washington and Max Scherzer in last year's World Series opener, part of a postseason in which Cole was 4-1 for Houston.

AP
New York Yankees starting pitcher Gerrit Cole delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Reds 3, Indians 2

Joey Votto hit a two-run, go-ahead homer, Nick Castellanos also connected, and the Reds beat Cleveland, as the Indians played again without ill manager Terry Francona.

Sonny Gray shook off a tough start to the game to complete six strong innings, and Cincinnati ended a six-game home losing streak against their in-state rival.

Votto snapped an 0-for-11 skid when he followed Shogo Akiyama's leadoff single in the sixth with a no-doubt shot off Zach Plesac (0-1). The 2010 NL MVP sat out a doubleheader Sunday after self-reporting coronavirus symptoms, but he was cleared to return to the lineup Monday and hit his third homer following a negative test.

Twins 5, Pirates 4

Nelson Cruz's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted Minnesota over Pittsburgh for its fourth straight victory.

Cruz, who knocked in two runs to raise his season total to 14 RBIs, drove a pitch from Pirates reliever and former Twins draft pick Nick Burdi (0-1) over the head of center fielder Cole Tucker with runners at second and third and one out.

The Pirates (2-8), who lost their fifth consecutive game and have the worst record in the major leagues, put a runner on against Twins closer Taylor Rogers (1-0) but were unable to convert.

Tucker homered on the first pitch of the night while batting leadoff for the first time in his career for the Pirates.

Cubs 2, Royals 0

Kris Bryant homered in his return to the lineup and Alec Mills pitched seven effective innings, helping Chicago beat Kansas City for its fourth consecutive win.

Javier Báez had a sacrifice fly and a nice play in the field as NL Central-leading Chicago improved to 8-2 for the first time since 2016. Bryant also doubled in the first after missing two games with a stomach ailment.

Mills (2-0) allowed three hits, struck out four and walked three on a wet, windy night at Wrigley Field.

White Sox 6, Brewers 4

José Abreu hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh inning, Leury García scored on a wild pitch in the eighth and Yoan Moncada added a solo shot in the ninth to lift the White Sox over Milwaukee.

Chicago has won five straight, all on the road. Starter Carlos Rodón was pulled after two innings with left shoulder soreness, but Ross Detwiler (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief, and Alex Colomé worked the ninth for his second save.

Padres 5, Dodgers 4

Jake Cronenworth singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning for San Diego, which hit three solo home runs off Walker Buehler and beat Los Angeles.

Cronenworth's hit gave ace Chris Paddack (2-0) his first career win against the Dodgers. Cronenworth also made several nice plays at first base, where the rookie made his fifth start.

Trent Grisham, Wil Myers and Fernando Tatis Jr. homered off Buehler.

Rockies 7, Giants 6

Nolan Arenado hit his first homer of the season to ignite a five-run sixth inning and Colorado matched its best start in franchise history by beating San Francisco.

The Rockies are 7-2 for the fifth time in team history. They also had that mark in 1995, '97, 2011 and '15.

Trailing 4-1 in the sixth, Arenado lined a two-run homer to left off Johnny Cueto. The breakout inning also included an RBI single from Matt Kemp and a go-ahead single from David Dahl that also brought in another run on right fielder Alex Dickerson's errant throw. Chris Owings added an insurance run with a solo homer in the eighth.

Athletics 11, Mariners 1

Ramón Laureano and Chad Pinder had two-run singles during Oakland's big fifth inning on the way to the rout of Seattle.

Oakland scored eight times in the fifth inning, with all the runs coming with two outs. The A's gave starter Frankie Montas plenty of run support and finished off a successful first road trip by taking three of four from Seattle.

FIFA damage over probe on Infantino 'irreversible'

SWIRTZERLAND (AP)—With Gianni Infantino's running of world football being examined by a Swiss special prosecutor, FIFA's hopes of shedding the image of scandal have been derailed by its president's secret meetings with authorities.

"It's a matter of record now that there is a criminal investigation—we can't erase that," FIFA deputy secretary general Alasdair Bell told The Associated Press on Monday. "In that respect the damage is, to some extent, irreversible."

It is five years since Sepp Blatter was toppled by a FIFA ethics verdict of financial wrongdoing which came in the fallout from a wave of arrests of high-ranking football officials by Swiss and American authorities.

Now Infantino's talks with Swiss attorney general Michael Lauber about the sprawling investigation into football corruption has put them both in the sights of a special prosecutor. There are records of what was said in the three meetings.

"It's almost preposterous to suggest that because someone doesn't remember the details of a meeting, therefore something criminal should have been discussed," Bell said.

"I don't really think it's reckless not to take minutes when the FIFA president meets the attorney general of the country," Bell added. "You don't really expect when you go to meet the most senior prosecutor in the country, to have a discussion about governance reform at FIFA, to have a discussion about the ongoing cases involving FIFA ... after that to end up yourself being the subject of a criminal investigation."

But special prosecutor Stefan Keller has written to Infantino to say he cannot "exclude the possibility that something criminal might have been discussed you can't remember," according to a version recounted by Bell.

The potential criminal charges facing Infantino could be "incitement to abuse office, incitement to violate secrecy, incitement to obstruct justice," Bell said.

Lauber was recused and disciplined after it was revealed he had three meetings with Infantino to discuss the FIFA investigations, which has included at least 25 open criminal proceedings.

There is no timeframe for completing the cases in a country that has been slow to progress investigations linked to FIFA.

A criminal proceeding against Blatter—for a $2 million payment he authorized to then-FIFA vice president Michel Platini in 2011 for uncontracted salary—remains open after almost five years.

Rodgers savoring moments, not dwelling on future

WISCONSIN (AP)—Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers doesn't want to speculate just how much longer he might remain in Green Bay now that the team has drafted his potential successor.

The two-time MVP says he's just trying to concentrate on the things that remain in his control while remembering to cherish each opportunity.

"I savor every moment, every season," Rodgers said Monday in a Zoom session with reporters. "I don't take any of it for granted. I don't know what the future holds. I know I can control this year and my play and my approach and my attitude. And I'm enjoying being back with the guys. it's fun to see them."

The Packers traded up four spots in the first round in April to draft Utah State quarterback Jordan Love with the No. 26 overall pick. The move immediately raised speculation about Rodgers' long-term future in Green Bay, where he's spent his entire career since the Packers selected him 22nd overall in 2005.

That has remained the case no matter how often Packers officials try to downplay the situation.

"Right now, most importantly, Aaron's our quarterback," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said Sunday. "And I see him here for a really long time. However long that is, I don't think anybody knows. Nothing's guaranteed in this league. But I feel so lucky to be able to work with him on a daily basis.

AP
In this Jan. 19, 2020 file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws during the NFC Championship playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif.

I don't see that changing for a really long time."

Rodgers has acknowledged Green Bay's decision caught him by surprise and likely complicated his chances of finishing his career as a Packer. The 36-year-old Rodgers noted in a May session with reporters on Zoom that he's interested in playing into his 40s.

"I think if I retire on the team's timeline, then all is well," Rodgers said. "If they're looking to move on before I'm done playing, there becomes an impasse at that point. I can control my play and my performance and my approach and my leadership, but at some point, there's other factors involved."

The draft was only one small part of an unusual offseason for Rodgers.

Shortly before the pandemic shut down so much of the world, Rodgers traveled to Peru and climbed Machu Picchu Mountain.

"The lessons I learned on that trip I think will serve me not just this season, but the rest of my life," Rodgers said. "I'm not really going to get into those because they're very personal, but it was definitely a lot of mindfulness and reflection around that trip."

Then he came home to a quarantine. Rodgers said the past several months have "allowed all of us to reflect on things and what's most important to us in our lives."

"I think it's been a great time for all of us to really reflect," Rodgers said. "It's been a difficult time for so many families across the country dealing with loved ones, dealing with a sickness, possibly dying. I think it's been a trying time for all of us. In those moments of adversity, I think there's some great life lessons to be learned."

Opt-out deadline

The NFL has reportedly set an official deadline for players to opt out of the 2020 season.

If players decide that they want to opt out of the season this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they must do so by Thursday at 4pm ET.

The deadline for players to opt out was initially supposed to be one week after the new CBA was ratified. According to the NFL Network, the league and NFL Players Association agreed to a deal on Monday evening.

Players can choose to opt out of the 2020 season due to the coronavirus. If players decide not to play—something several have already done—they will receive $350,000 if the league can determine that they are at high risk for contracting the virus. If not, they will make $150,000.

Meanwhile, Browns star wide receiver Odell Beckham has fully participated in the early stages of training camp after expressing reservations whether the NFL should forge ahead and have a season with the coronavirus still spreading.

Beckham reported to Cleveland's camp last week, passed the COVID-19 testing and has taken part in all team activities.

On Monday, the flashy receiver was quoted in a Wall Street Journal story as saying he wondered why the league was putting players' health at risk.

"Obviously with everything that's going on, it doesn't make sense why we're trying to do this," Beckham told the publication, which noted the interview was done two weeks before the NFL and NFLPA agreed on safety guidelines. "I can understand basketball was already in the playoffs. Five-on-five basketball in an arena is going to be more intense than regular-season games. Hooping is different than playing an 11-on-11 contact sport where there's 80 people in a locker room."

SOCCER

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NMISTC.

The trials are only for players in the 10 to 12 age group and the kick-off leg will run from 8am to 9:30am. The last three try-outs will take place on Aug. 15, 22, and 29. Players joining the trials and the 19 on the current JNA pool will battle for the 24 slots on the new batch that will then train 12 times (every Tuesday) beginning on Sept. 8 at the TSL Sports Complex.

Players under the JNA are pooled to get ready for higher-level competitions and national team training system.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Grassroots Kids Leader Course perform drills last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMA

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"We, at NMA continue to provide our athletes development opportunities while ensuring their welfare and safety as they navigate their way towards improving their skills. We have knowledgeable coaches who help our athletes train and compete," NMA president Ray Tebuteb said.

Unfortunately, at this time, NMA and majority of the members of the sports community on island, were forced to suspend their activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tebuteb said that despite the lull, NMA is using the time off to think of ways how to safely return to sports activities, especially the events that involved children.

"It's a work in progress, particularly at these trying times when we have restrictions and we need to follow safety protocols. We will be taking to all stakeholders, including the schools, on how we can move forward with our programs safely," Tebuteb said.

The All Schools track and cross-country meets are two of NMA's programs that cater to children and since the association could not hold the former in the first quarter of the year due to the pandemic, Tebuteb is hoping that the latter could go ahead.

Cross-country season usually starts in October or a little over a month after a new school year begins. NMA is hoping to utilize the event to promote one of World Athletics' six major initiatives—"Giving every child in the world access to sport"—and share the eight guidelines on making sports safer for children.

Based on the International Safeguards for Children in Sport Initiative, the guidelines are as follows: developing your policy; procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns; advice and support; minimizing risks to children; guidelines for behavior; recruiting, training and communicating; working with partners; and monitoring and evaluating.

The pledge, on the other hand, is read as "We are committed to working towards safer sport for all children everywhere. We pledge to promote and advocate for the safeguards through our networks, and commit to embedding them in our work."

Meanwhile, Tebuteb is encouraging other sports organizations in the CNMI and their partners to observe the Safer Sport Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this file photo, Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar briefs student on the safety rules before proceeding with the javelin throw event during last year's qualifier for the All School's meet at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Zion delivers, keeps Pelicans in playoff race

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Sports

Cole extends streak to 19, beats Phils in debut

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Soccer coaching course set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will hold another coaching course this month to keep its grassroots program growing.

After hosting the Grassroots Kids Leader Course last Saturday, NMIFA this time will kick off the four-part D Coaching Certificate Course on Aug. 15. The last three legs will be held on Aug. 16, 22, and 23, and participants will undergo both theoretical (online) and practical sessions with the latter taking place at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

To qualify for the course, interested individuals must be at least 16 years old and have a one-year experience in coaching at the club or school level or two years of playing experience. They must also submit a copy of the results of their COVID-19 testing.

NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita, who addressed the participants of last weekend's GKL course, said that more certified and trained coaches would help the association and its club members in working with children, especially those who are just starting to develop their interest in the sport.

NMIFA will strictly enforce safety measures during the practical part of the course and the number of participants will be limited so interested individuals are encouraged to coordinate with their respective clubs to finalize the registration requirement early.

Meanwhile, try-outs for the NMIFA Junior National Academy Batch 2020-2021 will start this Saturday at the

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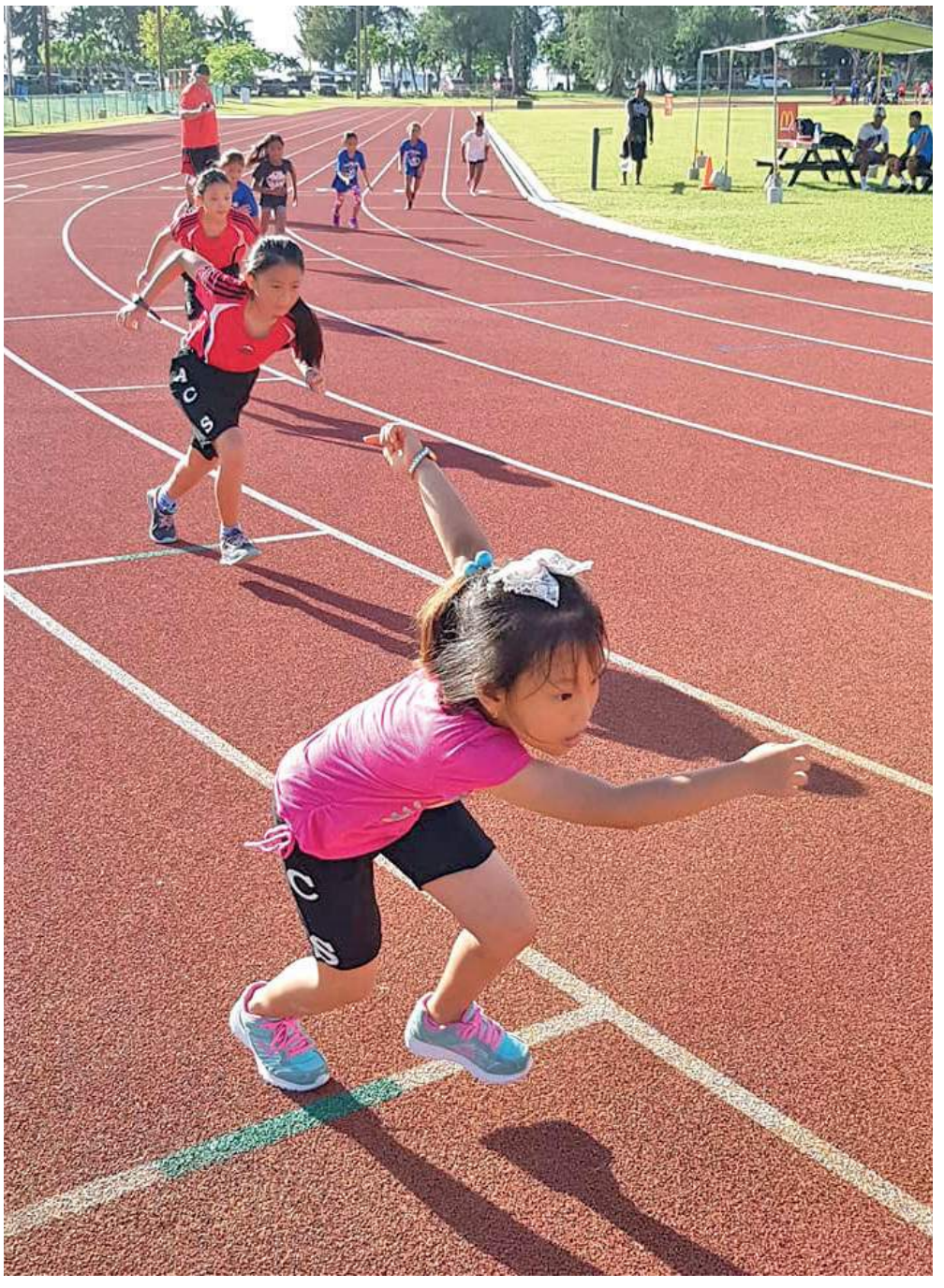
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Jersh Angeles gives instructions to participants of last weekend's Grassroots Kids Leader Course at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMA to observe Safer Sport Day



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, students in the U9 age group line up for the 4x100m relay race in the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics' All Schools track meet at the Oleai Sports Complex.

SAFEGUARD 05
Guidelines on Behaviour
Establish a code of conduct – with children's input – to describe what is an acceptable standard of behaviour so that sport can be carried out in a safe, positive, and encouraging way.
"I wrote this anti-bullying policy. I gave it to some young people and they pulled it apart. They wrote seven points for an anti-bullying pledge that were far better than I could ever have written. They have done a series of stick people that express more than I could ever express, and that is now going to be our anti-bullying policy."
– Director of Safeguarding, National Governing Body, Europe
INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN IN SPORT

SAFE SPORT INTERNATIONAL

Safe Sport International promotes one of the guidelines in safeguarding children's journey to sports through its Facebook page.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Athletics will join Oceania Athletics Association and other sports organizations across the globe in observing the Safer Sport Day.

Created by the International Safeguards for Children in Sport Initiative in partnership with more than 60 groups to make sport safer for children, Safer Sport Day is celebrated every Aug. 8. The campaign aims to raise awareness and promote actions, and adapts a theme every year. This year's theme is "Take the Pledge" to make sports safer for children by considering and promoting the eight guidelines in safeguarding children's journey to sports through social media platforms and the organizations' events.

See NMA on Page 19